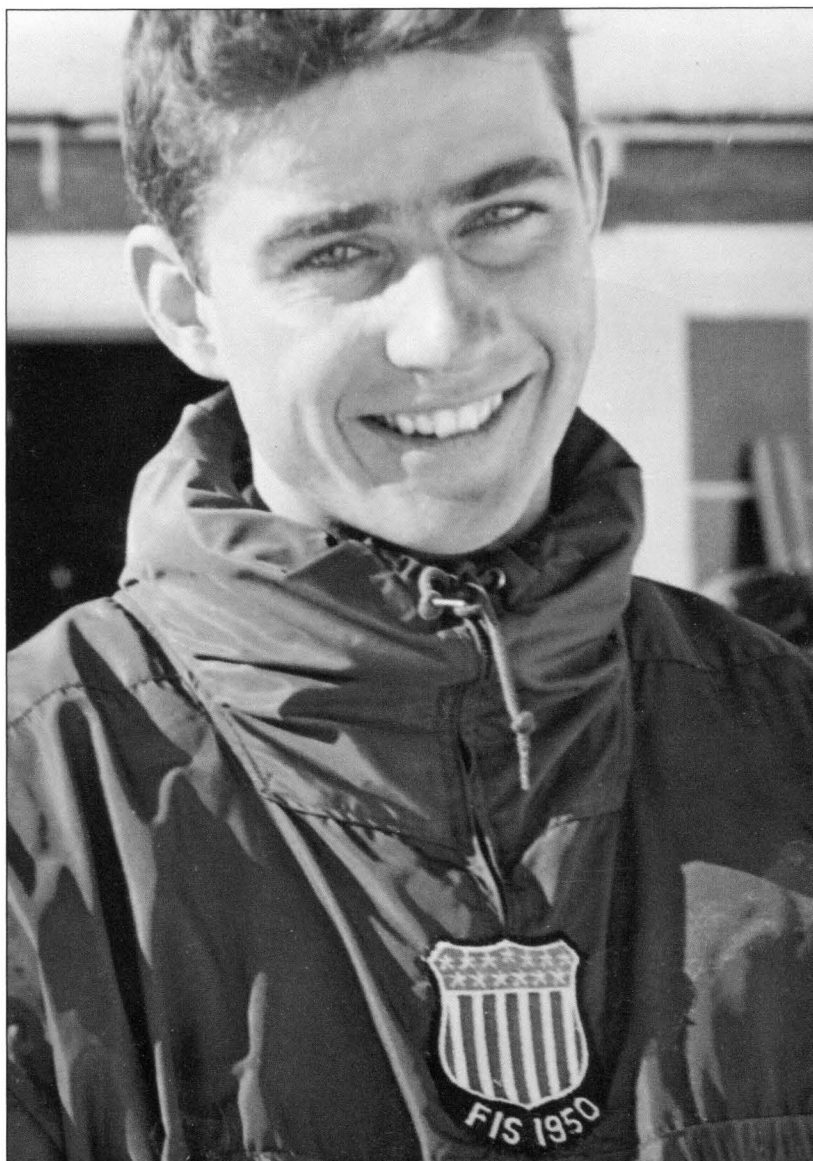


Jimmy Griffith

Ketchum and Sun Valley's First Native Born Skier
Named to a U.S. Olympic Team



A Young Man's Journey
on the Way to
Becoming a U.S. Olympian

*This collection of documents, letters, and articles
was assembled into a booklet in June 2012 by
Mary Jane Griffith Conger*

*From The Library
Of
Ellwood V. Werry P.E.*

*Of
Ellwood V. Werry P.E.*

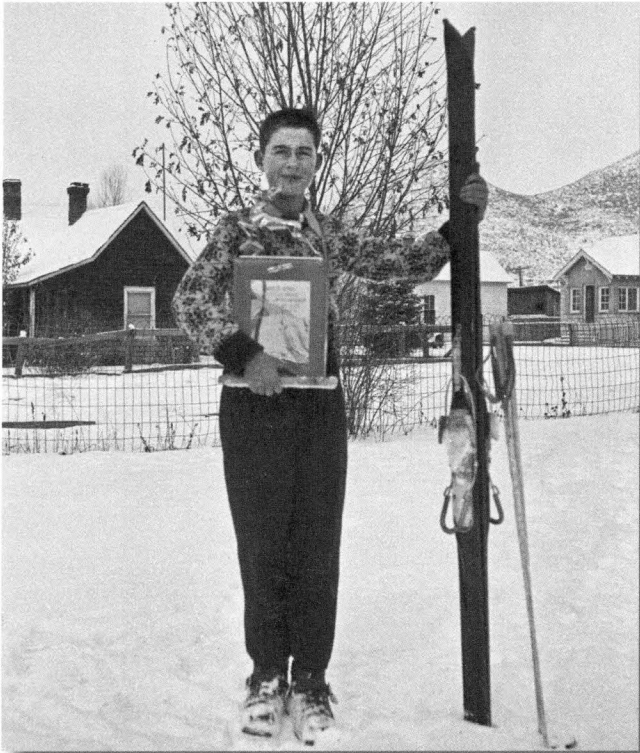


Age 2, 1931

Jimmy's first time on skis in front of his father's grocery store "Griffith Grocery" and his Uncle Oscar's gas station in Ketchum, Idaho.



Bald Mountain is Ketchum and Sun Valley's most visible enduring landmark. It continues to be a beacon for those who visit Ketchum and a monument to those who live in this community. Circa 1940



Early Local Ski Competition

The American Legion sponsored small races for Hailey and Ketchum school children just before and during WW11. The first one Jimmy entered he placed last. I believe his self esteem was so badly shaken, that he was determined to never let this happen again. He won the following two local races!

On December 2, 1942, Nelson Bennett (head of the Sun Valley Ski Patrol) invited twelve year old Jimmy to join him on a climb to the top of 9150 foot Mount Baldy to get a snow depth reading. They forged through the deep snow on skins up the 3400 foot ascent to the top.

Their ride down the empty ski runs of Baldy in deep untracked snow to the river at the base of the mountain was a once in a lifetime skiers dream. There was no bridge at that time. Consequently fording the Big Wood River while holding skis, boots and poles overhead was an added thrill at the end of a long day.



Preface

This book is a documentation of the short, dynamic competitive ski racing career of James "Jimmy" Griffith, who was Ketchum and Sun Valley's First Native Skier named to a U.S. Olympic Team.

Jimmy grew up in the small mountain town of Ketchum, Idaho in a free, welcoming outdoor environment during the depression years of the early 1930's. Under the supportive tutelage of loving parents the Griffith children learned independence through having to create their own entertainment. He had an unwavering desire to become a medical doctor from an early age.

Jimmy's quiet, pensive demeanor that led to diverse interests, including alone time creating art and music projects and earning a Boy Scout Eagle Badge, often hid his initial interest in competitive sports that began blossoming after Sun Valley Resort was developed. Packing ski slopes on newly developed Baldy Mountain with the Ski patrol offered him the opportunity to ski weekend afternoons among expert skiers who willingly gave pointers to a young lad with the desire and determination to learn. These experiences ignited in him a passion for skiing. He won his first ski trophy at age 11.

As World War II closed Sun Valley the end of the 1942 ski season, Jimmy started high school. Three years later, at age 15, he entered summer school at the University of Colorado, Boulder as a pre-medical student, where the first year of academic and social adjustment preempted skiing. In early 1947, on seeing the Intercollegiate Ski racing schedule that included ski meets every week end from December through March, Jimmy commented: "*With the present standard of this institution, the only way to get through is to quit having any fun and to work constantly.*"

1947 competitions paved the way for Jimmy's journey on the way to becoming an Olympian. His following three successive years of serious competitive ski racing against world class competitors catapulted him into national and international recognition. Korean War pressures were rising as Olympic committees were working with the reinstated draft boards to help their targeted skiers prepare for the coming 1952 Olympics in Norway. In 1950, his greatest year, Jimmy was selected for the FIS U.S. Ski Team, and he won the National Downhill Men's championship. These and other major race results are in a chart at the end of this booklet. On his graduation in 1951 he entered the Air Force. He had bad luck in one race and was scratched before the other. As he was awaiting release from the military to join his Olympic team members in pre Olympic training he suffered what proved to be a fatal high speed accident in Alta, Utah on December 2, 1951.

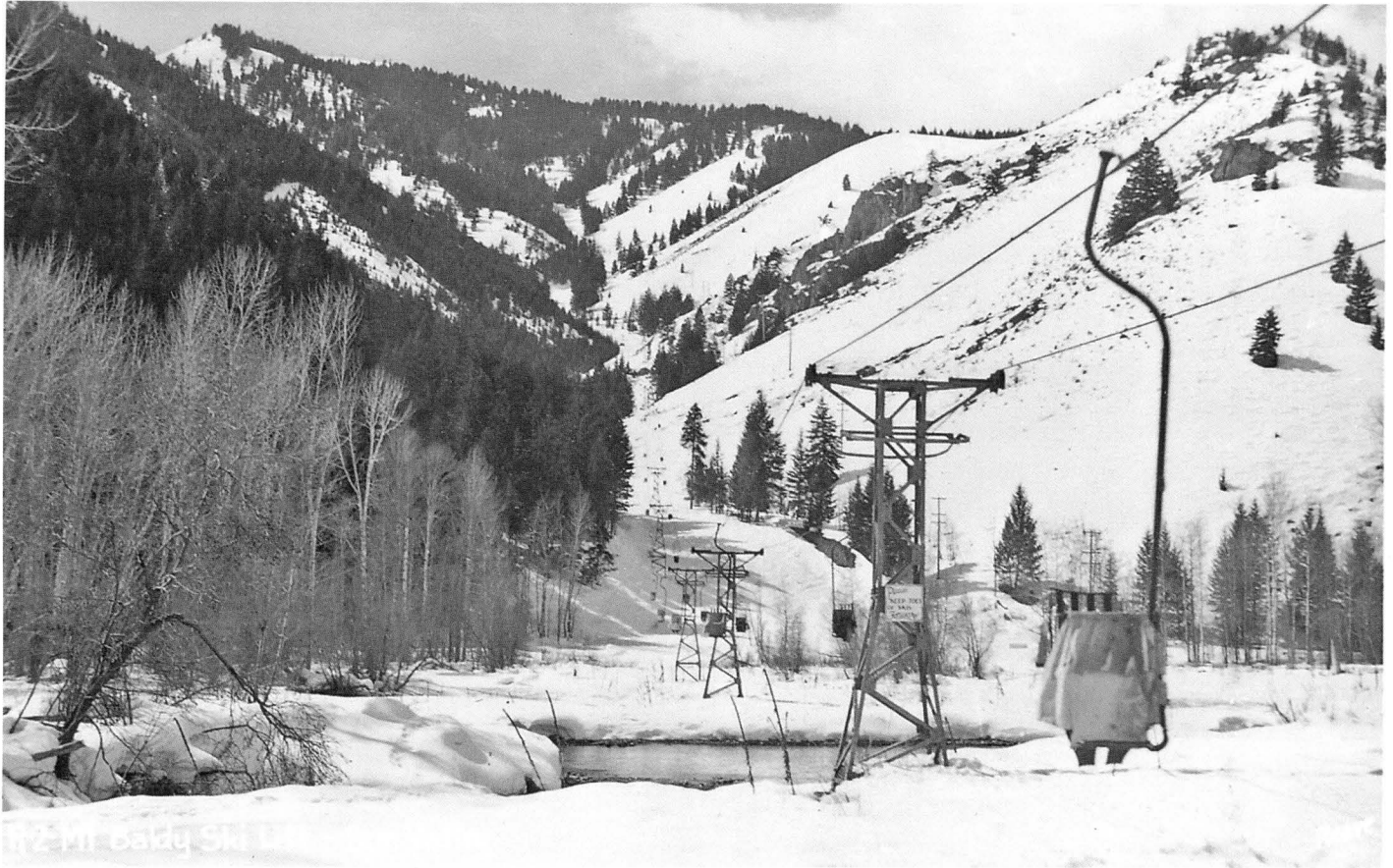
"Jim has been selected three times to represent the United States in International Ski Competition. Two of the three times, character was as much a deciding factor as was skiing ability."

— Nelson Bennett, Superintendent of Recreational Facilities, Sun Valley, Idaho (1951)

Sun Valley Ski Club established a Memorial Award for the Club's male skier "who best exemplifies the qualities of sportsmanship and excellence of performance so characteristic of Jim's racing career." Aside from his world class ski validation, Jimmy's close friends and associates regard his personal character, and sportsmanship his greatest attributes.



— Mary Jane Griffith Conger, sister of Jimmy Griffith



In the ski era of the 1940's and early '50's the initial three sections of River Run single chair lifts with the blanket covering carried skiers to the top of the mountain. The lift was built on the Ketchum (east) side of Big Wood River.



*Left to right: Howard Hesser, Johnny Webb, Jimmy Griffith, Bill Mallory,
Lonnie Linderman, (Dad) Alonzo Linderman*



Bill Mallory, Lonnie Linderman, Alonzo Linderman, (front) Jimmy Griffith.

“Northern Pursuit” Hollywood Movie Extras

Locals from Ketchum and Hailey, Idaho were used as extras in the 1943 Hollywood movie “Northern Pursuit,” starring Errol Flynn. The film, intended to be a propaganda film, was produced in Canada. However, the ski shots were taken north of Ketchum in the Owl Creek and Boulder Mountains.



Jimmy Griffith; Running Slalom and Jumping

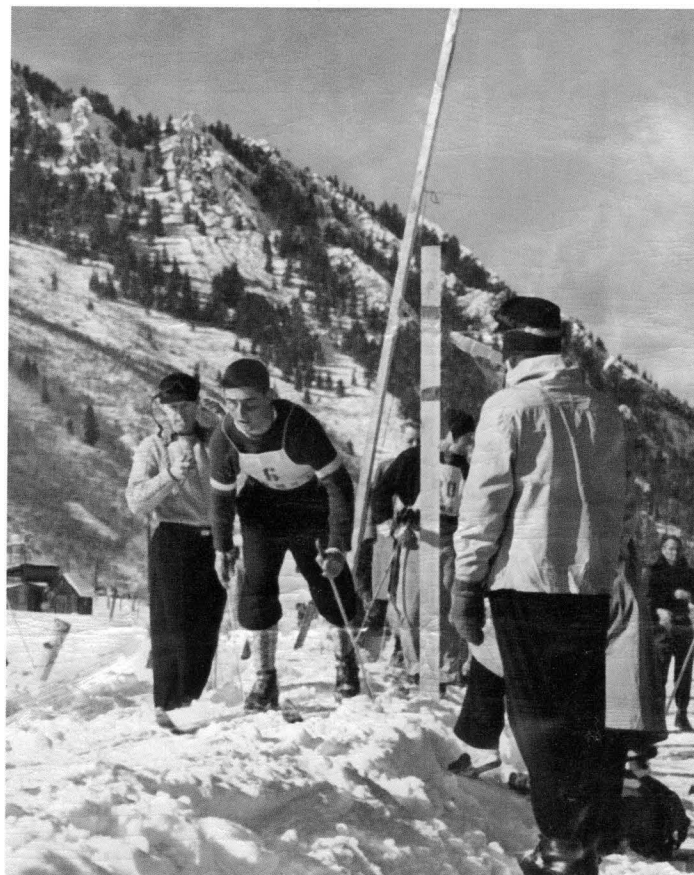


*University of Colorado, Boulder, Ski Team
Left to Right: George Brewer, Claus Dahl, Bill Steel, Jimmy Griffith, and Ernie Grey*

Western State Intercollegiate 4-way Team in Aspen, Colorado



L-R Jimmy Griffith, Marvin Crawford, Gordon Wren, Crosby Perry Smith (Aspen) Colorado State Team



Jimmy; Cross Country, Barney McLean starter

Sixth Annual Sun Valley Intercollegiate Meet

Early in 1947 Jimmy was recruited by the Buffalo ski team to learn how to jump (and ski cross country) so their team could compete in Intercollegiate four man team four way events. He had spent time on a trampoline that paid off when an ex-Olympic Norwegian jumper gave him some basic instruction on a small jump. On borrowed 10 year old jumping skis, the next thing he knew he was flying through the air in a ski meet.

December 28-31, 1947 the Buff ski team competed in the Sixth Annual Sun Valley Intercollegiate Meet. This included The BRADLEY PLATE four men, a 4-way team competition; The Mary Cornelia Trophy for Women ; and the Ray Milland College Team Trophy.



Otto Lang, Sun Valley Ski School Director presenting an award to the winning team.

All events were held that year on Galena Summit, for lack of snow in lower elevations, except for the jumping on Ruud Mountain, Sun Valley.



Emile Allais

Jim Griffith's Ski Mentor

He never did have a coach but Jimmy learned to ski using the Austrian Arlberg technique, the method used in most ski schools of America at the time. Beginners learned to angle ski tips inward forming a "V" (snow plow) position before progressing to a stem christy and finally to parallel skiing.

In the late 40's Emile Allais, a French triple world ski champion and ski icon spent a year teaching in the Sun Valley Ski School during his United States

travels. Shortly after his unparalleled peak racing days in the 1930's he pioneered a new revolutionary skiing system using parallel turns that all French ski schools later adopted and that spread throughout the world. Jimmy, who idolized the ski abilities of Allais, observed him whenever possible and seemed to accommodate this quiet Frenchman's belief in learning by example. Jimmy's performance seemed greatly increased during this time, and I am sure he credited this renown teacher for helping influence his racing technique. He was looking forward to having Emile Allais as the U.S. Men's coach for the 1952 Olympics (Emile Allais died in November of 2012 at age 100).

*"My method is just right for this country,
it is loose and free, just like the
spirit of you Americans."*

Emile Allais

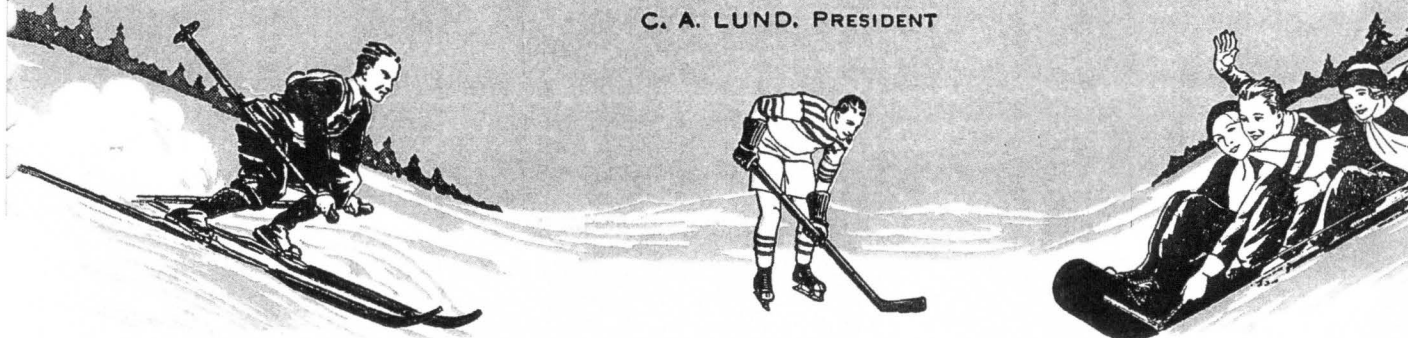


From left to right: Don Johnson, 1948 Olympic Cross Country Team; Jim Griffith, 3rd Place in the Harriman Cup, Katy Rodolph, 1948 U.S. Olympic Women's Team; Dean Perkins, 5th Place in the National Downhill Championships

Ski Racers Enjoying a Climb Up Bald Mountain Summer of 1949

NORTHLAND SKI MANUFACTURING CO.

C. A. LUND. PRESIDENT



SAINT PAUL 4, MINNESOTA
1951 UNIVERSITY AVENUE

September 1, 1949

Mr. Jim Griffith
Ketchum, Idaho

Dear Jim:

We would like to extend our hearty congratulations on your selection to the Downhill and Slalom squad for the world ski championships to be held next year at Aspen.

If you plan to accept the invitation, and would be willing to use Northland Skis, we shall be happy to furnish your requirements in skis with our compliments. In that event please let us have your specifications as to length, flexibility, plastic or hickory bottoms, etc. We can furnish these skis with the G.S. Edge, made in Switzerland, which is very popular in Europe.

We might mention that Yves Latreille and Yvan Tache stopped in at our office this week and ordered their skis.

We shall be glad to hear from you as early as possible, since it is becoming rather late in the year and we would like as much time as possible to make these skis up for you.

With best wishes for your success at Aspen, we remain

Sincerely yours,

NORTHLAND SKI MFG. CO.


Ambrose C. Lund.

ACL:ca

Ketchum's Jim Griffith Will Give Up Ski Racing for Medical Studies in Two Years

By BOB REILLY

SUN VALLEY—Idahoans had better hurry up if they want to get a look at Jimmy Griffith, the Gem state's fastest-flying slatman. He won't be on the hickories forever.

Jimmy has declared that the finals of his racing career is drawing nigh and that he expects to put away his racing number after he tries out for the Olympic squad two years hence.

"I'm not going to make skiing my business," the handsome 21-year-old skier explained. "I'm studying medicine, and after I try

★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★



YOUNG, HANDSOME Jim Griffith sends snow flying as he rounds a turn.

out for the Olympic team I'm going to hang up my bindings, competitively speaking, and settle down to the business of learning to be a doctor."

Two years is a short time ski-wise. Only a handful of top races are left for Jimmy in that short a period and as a result he is gunning for as many victories as he can in the years left.

One of the most important of these is the Harriman Cup races, scheduled for this week end at Sun Valley. The greatest names in the skiing world will be on hand following the windup of the FIS races at Aspen a few days ago.

Jimmy had a bad break in the FIS downhill and he's all out to rectify it this week end. Observers say that Jimmy was a cinch to cop first place in the spot lighted downhill race until he fell scant yards from the finish line.

Jimmy tends to discredit his outstanding run, but unofficial timers declare that the Idahoan was threatening the first place time of the jet-propelled Italian, Zeno Colo, when he spilled, Griffith crawled across the finish line on his hands and knees, losing full 10 seconds.

"They tell me I would have been right up there," Jimmy said, "but actually I never felt once during the entire FIS meet that I was skiing as good as I could. I know I was never more scared in my life than I was while the starter put his hand on my back and started counting the seconds.

"This was the biggest race I had ever been in and I know what they mean when they talk about the pressure of international competition. I began to feel it the morning of the race and by the time it came my turn to start my heart was really pounding. I saw the real hotshots, Zeno Colo, James Couytet, Toni Matt, Henri Oreiller, some of those racers who were winning international races before I learned to ski, starting off down the hill. It made me realize what I was up against.

"When the starter said 'Go' all of my fear evaporated. It wasn't that I suddenly became brave or overconfident. I just didn't have time to be scared any more; there was too much skiing ahead of me. The spectators lining the course disappeared into a blur and I only remember seeing a couple of the other racers along the side of the course where they had spilled.

"The end of the course was a jump to the finish. I went about 70 feet through the air, hit the snow, and discovered I was off my line. My speed was so great I couldn't turn back to the finish and I smacked into a snow wall along the side of the course. It threw me back into the course again and I struggled to get up, but my skis were all tangled up and I couldn't stand. All I could see was that finish line so I dug my elbows in the snow and crawled over."

That's how close the Ketchum racer came to winning the world's championship in the downhill. It wasn't easy to come that close to victory, only to lose it, but Jimmy's not discouraged.

"Colo won that one," he said. "He's probably the greatest living skier. But somebody can beat him. Maybe it will be me. I know I'll be trying."

Griffith is currently a senior at Colorado U. He's finishing up his pre-med work and he plans on going to the Harvard Medical school. Denver or Seattle looks like good places for him to hang out his shingle when he gets ready.

Jimmy started his skiing when he was 11 years old. Sun Valley was already built and in full swing when he was old enough to know which end of a ski was supposed to head downhill. He was raised in the shadow of the Baldy mountain and all through his schoolkid days he mingled with the bigger skiers and waited for the day when he could strap a pair of slats to his feet.

A bare two years after his non-skiing father, Albert R. Griffith, of Ketchum, handed him his first skis Jimmy was in a race, the Junior American Legion championships at Sun Valley.

"I was last or close to it," Jimmy admits sheepishly. "But the bug bit me then and there and I knew I wouldn't be satisfied until I was racing with the best of them."

After the formative years, Jimmy's rise as a racer became phenomenal. He began placing high up in the big races and was regarded as formidable racing timber by the important skiers. Jimmy was a cinch to place on the American Olympic squad until two unfortunate accidents caught up with him one week before the tryouts. In the National championships he fell and ran a ski pole in his eye, nearly causing blindness. As if that were not enough he seriously burned his arm in a laboratory experiment at school.

"Hurting my eye was my worst accident," Jimmy said. "I've never broken a bone," and here he paused to rap on wood—a ski, "and I never expect to."

During the summers Jimmy keeps in condition by mowing the lawns on the Sun Valley golf course. During his winter semesters when he withdraws from school to race he works as a ski patrolman at the Union Pacific resort.

The skiing railbirds peg Griffith as a red hot prospect to take the measure of the vaunted Zeno Colo in the Harriman Cup downhill race. For one thing Jimmy will be racing over a course he knows better than the bottoms of his skis. Then, too, he's had a look at the Italian's flying heels and Jimmy is a boy who would rather win than run second. And third, Jimmy doesn't have many more races to go, by his own time table.

Although he probably wouldn't admit it, some day he'd like to lay away his stethoscope long enough to tell his kids that he managed to knock over the world's champion in his day.



Jimmy Griffith compiled an impressive record in the wide open downhill races of his era that led to his being designated as a United States F.I.S. (Federation Nationale de Ski) team member in 1950, and selected to the the U.S. Olympic ski team in 1952.



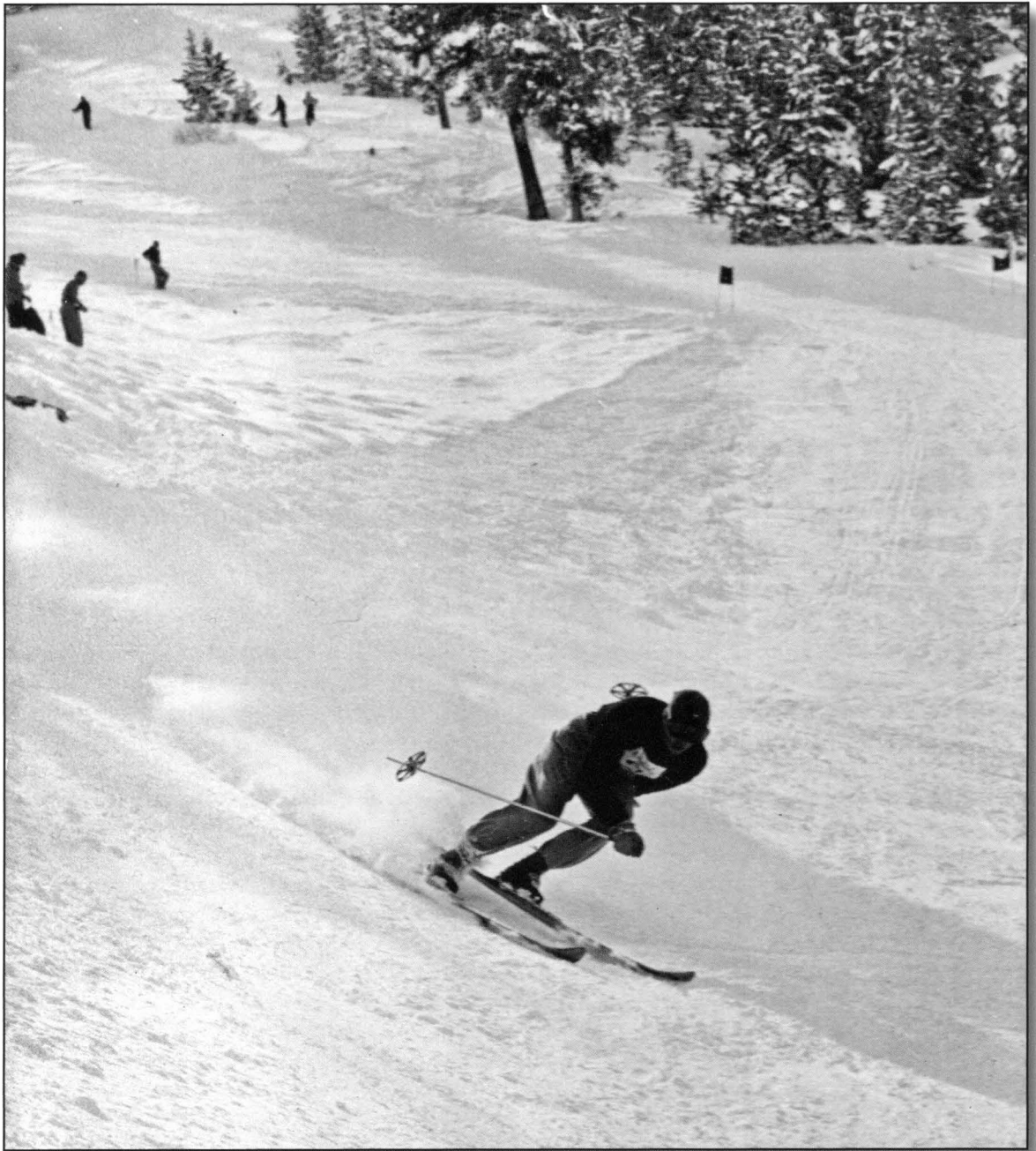
*Bottom Left photo: 1950 World (FIS) Championship Competition
Dean Perkins, Jimmy Griffith, Jack Reddish, Brooks Dodge,
Toni Matt, Dick Movitz, Coach Barney McLean*



Jimmy Griffith competing in the 1950 World Downhill Championship Race held in Aspen Colorado.



Winner of men's 1950 National Downhill Championships at Sun Valley, Idaho, Open and Amateur titles.



The men's 1950 National Downhill Championships on Canyon Run, Bald Mountain

WHO'S WHO ON THE 1952 OLYMPIC SKI SQUAD

Men's Downhill and Slalom Team

Richard Carl Buek — member of the Sun Valley Ski Club, was born in Oakland, California, November 4, 1929. He now lives at Soda Springs, California. His weight is 147 lbs., and height 5' 9½". His present occupation is clearing ski hills and his hobby is cars. He began to ski in 1941. His record is: 1st, Nevada State Downhill Championships, 1949; 1st, Combined in Nevada State Championships, 1950; 1st, PNSA Downhill, 1951; 3rd, National Downhill; 2nd, Olympic Downhill tryouts; 3rd, Harriman Cup Downhill, 1951; 1st, Downhill and Combined, FWSA, 1949.

Joseph Brooks Dodge, Jr. — member of the Dartmouth Outing Club, was born in North Conway, New Hampshire, December 30, 1929. His present address is Pinkham Notch, Gorham, New Hampshire. He weighs 165 lbs., is 6' 1" tall, and a student at Dartmouth College. His hobbies are hunting, fishing, and rock climbing. His record is: 1st, 1947 Eastern Downhill; 1st, 1947 and 1948 Hochgebirge; 1st, 1947 Webber Cup; 1st, 1948 AMC Downhill; 2nd, 1949 Roche Cup; 2nd, 1950 Eccles Cup; 2nd, 1950 Argentine and Chilean Nationals. In 1951, he had eight out of nine firsts in the Dartmouth, McGill and Middlebury Carnivals; in Olympic tryouts he was 6th in Downhill, 4th in Slalom, 4th in Combined; in the 1951 Harriman Cup he was 6th in Downhill, 10th in Slalom, 8th in Combined; and 1st in the 1951 Webber Cup.

Verne Joseph Goodwin — member of the Mt. Greylock Ski Club and the Middlebury College Ski Team, was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, July 19, 1931, and now lives in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. His weight is 150 lbs. and height 5' 10". At present he is a student at Middlebury College and his hobbies are fishing and golf. He won first place in the 1951 Vic Constant Memorial; 1st in Downhill and 2nd in Combined in the 1951 Harriman Cup Race, and won the Ski-Meister 1951 four-event at the McGill and Middlebury Carnivals. He was selected to represent

the NSA in the Argentine and Chilean Championships in August, 1951.

James Albert Griffith — member of the Sun Valley Ski Club, was born in Boise, Idaho, February 14, 1929, and his home is now in Ketchum, Idaho. His weight is 170 lbs. and height, 5' 11". His present occupation is in the United States Air Force, and his main hobby is sports. He had an outstanding record in 1950 when he won first place in both amateur and open classes of the National Downhill Championships, 1st in Downhill, Slalom and Combined in the Argentine National Championships; 1st in the Kandahar of the Andes in Downhill, Slalom and Combined; and 1st in the Chilean National Championships in Downhill and Combined.

George Macomber — member of the Ski Club Hochgebirge, was born in Newton, Massachusetts, July 7, 1927, and now lives in West Newton, Massachusetts. His weight is 155 lbs. and his height is 5' 9". His present occupation is building contractor and his hobbies are flying and sports. He began to ski in 1934 and his record is: 1st, 1949 National Downhill, Slalom and Combined Championships; 1st, 1948 Silver Belt Giant Slalom; 1st, 1950 USEASA Downhill Championships; 1st, 1949 Gibson Trophy Race; 1st, 1950 Webber Cup Challenge Trophy; 15th, 1950 FIS Slalom; 4th, 1950 North American Slalom.

Jack Edward Nagel — member of Penguin, Seattle and Sun Valley Ski Clubs, was born in Port Townsend, Washington, January 30, 1926, and now lives at Skykomish, Washington. His weight is 175 lbs. and his height is 5' 8½". His present occupation is logging and his hobbies are golf and hunting. He began skiing at the age of four. His record for 1950-51: 2nd, Snow Cup Races, Alta; 3rd, Eccles Cup; 2nd, Combined in PNSA Championships; 1st, Roch Cup; 5th, Combined in North American Championships; 1st, Combined in National Championships at Whitefish; 6th, Downhill, Harriman Cup Races; 1st, Penguin Giant Slalom Championship; 1st, Heather Cup Giant Slalom.



American Ski Annual and Journal: Official Publication of The National Ski Association

MEN'S DOWNHILL AND SLALOM TEAM—Front row, left to right: Jack Reddish, C. Alan Fischer (Alternate), Jim Murphy (Alternate), Jack Nagel, Brooks Dodge, Dick Buek, Jim Griffith, Darrell Robison. Back row, left to right: Bill Beck (Alternate), and Verne Goodwin.

Jack N. Reddish — member of Sun Valley Ski Club, was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, December 2, 1926, and makes his home in that city. His weight is 150 lbs. and his height is 5' 10". His present occupation is Yeoman Second Class, U. S. Navy, and his hobbies are automobiles (mechanics), and painting. He began to ski in 1939 and his record is as follows: member of the 1948 Olympic Ski Team; 6th in Slalom, 1948 Olympic Games; 1st in 1948 National Downhill, Slalom, and Combined Championships; 1st in 1948 Harriman Cup Races—Downhill, Slalom and Combined; 1st, 1949 Snow Cup Races; 1st, 1950 Snow Cup Races; 4th, FIS 1950 Slalom; 3rd, 1950-1951 National Giant Slalom; 1st, 1951 Olympic Downhill Tryouts; 2nd, 1951 Olympic Slalom Tryouts; 1st, Combined Olympic Tryouts; 1st, 1951 Harriman Cup Slalom.

Darrell Don Robison — member of Brighton and Salt Lake Ski Clubs, was born in Reno, Nevada, August 30, 1931, and now resides in Salt Lake City. His weight is 150 lbs. and his height 5' 10". He is a student in the University of Utah and his hobbies are swimming, basketball, golf, riding and hunting. He started ski-

ing in 1944 and has made the following record: 1st, 1948 National Junior Championships; 1st in Slalom, 7th in Downhill, 2nd in Combined, 1951 U. S. Olympic Tryouts; 6th, 1951 National Giant Slalom Championships; 10th, National Downhill Races; 6th, Combined, Harriman Cup Races; and 8th in Combined, North American Races.



George Macomber

Selective Service
Local Board No. 7, Blaine County
P. O. Box 657
Hailey, Idaho

(LOCAL BOARD STAMP)



Approval of Budget Bureau
not required.

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

Order to Report for
Armed Forces Physical Examination

Local Board No. 7
Blaine County

SEP 1 1950

(Date of mailing)

Hailey, Idaho

To James Albert Griffith

10	7	29	2
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(First name)

(Middle name)

(Last name)

(Selective Service Number)

You are hereby directed to report for armed forces physical examination at

Local Board Office 2nd Floor Bank Building Hailey, Idaho

(Place of reporting)

at 1:30 P. m., on the 14 of September, 1950

(Hour of reporting)

(Day)

(Month)

Ruth M. Peters

clerk of Local Board

NOTE: You will be gone 3 days.
Return to Hailey at
1:00 PM on Sept. 16th.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Every registrant.—When you report for armed forces physical examination you will be forwarded to a Joint Examining and Induction Station where you will be given a complete physical examination to determine whether you are physically qualified for service. Upon completion of your physical examination, you will be returned to this Local Board. You will be furnished transportation and meals and lodgings when necessary. Following your armed forces physical examination you will receive a certificate issued by the commanding officer of the station showing whether or not you are acceptable for service in the armed forces.

If you fail to report for armed forces physical examination as directed, you will be delinquent and will be immediately ordered to report for induction into the armed forces. You will also be subject to fine and imprisonment under the provisions of the Selective Service Act of 1948.

If you are so far from your own Local Board that reporting in compliance with this order will be a hardship and you desire to report to the Local Board in the area in which you are now located, take this order and go immediately to that Local Board and make written request for transfer for armed forces physical examination.

Jackson,
Wyoming.

November 7, 1950.

Mr. Jim Griffith,
1029 Broadway,
Boulder, Colorado.

Dear JimmY:

Just a short note to let you know that you have been selected on the two man team to go to Austria this winter. Macomber was also selected.

Will you let me know promptly what your draft status is? This is important especially if we will have to act in the case of deferments, and nothing can be promised at present.

As soon as additional information is forthcoming on the Austrian trip, I will forward it to you so you can make your plans accordingly.

With best wishes to you,

Jim Huidekoper

Box 302,
JACKSON, WYOMING

December 1, 1950

Selective Service Board,

Dear Sirs:

The United States Ski Association has received an invitation from the Austrian government to send two skiers to Austria this winter for training and competition. We are anxious to accept this invitation as our skiers are very much in need of experience in international competition and because we believe in fostering the understanding between Europeans and Americans.

James Griffith, who I believe is under the jurisdiction of your Selective Service board, has been chosen to represent this country. Griffith is not only a fine athlete, but is also an outstanding example of American character and spirit.

It is my understanding that Griffith has been granted a deferment to finish his medical education this spring. In the meantime there is a period of two months when he will be free from school as he must wait until the spring quarter to get the courses necessary for his graduation.

In view of these circumstances we would like to know if Griffith could be granted permission to leave the country during this interval in his education.

Naturally all our plans are tentative, realizing the grave seriousness of world affairs. However, we feel that we should go ahead with plans for the future, in the event that there can be a future for these men.

I will appreciate your consideration of this matter and will wait for a reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

JAMES HUIDEKOPER
James Huidecoper,
Chairman, U.S.Olympic Ski Comm.

ALFRED D. LINDLEY
1010 MIDLAND BANK BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS

December 28,
1950

Mr. James Griffith
Ketchum, Idaho

Dear Jimmy:

Glad to get word just now over the phone from James Huidekoper that you are clear to go to Europe. That is good news. We know you will do well over there.

The attached memorandum to all four of the skiers going gives you the dope. I assume you have your passport and smallpox certificate. That is all you need. Get yourself to New York by Saturday, January 6, at the latest and contact John Clair. Get your ticket at Swissair and you are all set.

Have enough money to cover your incidental expenses. You will have your return trip ticket, and transportation and hospitality will be taken care of in Europe - that is, railroad fare, room and board.

Attached is copy of letter I just sent to George Macomber giving you the dope in Europe. There is plenty of racing in both Austria and Switzerland. My advice is to spend the first week in Switzerland. Then go to Austria for a month or five weeks. Then come back to Switzerland for a couple of weeks for the Parsenn Derby. Do the best you can and race all that is good for you. You are not an official team but you are there to learn and to represent us. I know you will act in a manner consistent with being a guest and an American representative at all times.

Sincerely,

Al Lindley
Chairman - Olympic
Ski Games Committee

American Stars

(Continued From Page 1)

Named by NSA

The four American stars are skiing in Europe at the invitation of the Austrian and Swiss governments, and were named to the honor by the National Ski Association. Lawrence, 1949 National Giant Slalom champion, went in place of Jim Griffith, 1950 National Downhill titleholder from Sun Valley, who was unable to receive a release from Colorado university by his local draft board.

2 May 1951

Mr. Stephen J. Bradley
2424 4th Street
Boulder, Colorado

Dear Mr. Bradley:

This is in reply to your letter addressed to the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, concerning Mr. Jim Griffith who has been selected to represent the United States at the 1952 Winter Olympic Games in Oslo, Norway.

For your information, all inductees in the Air Force are for Air Force unassigned. No promises can be made. Inductees must attend basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. They are then trained and assigned in accordance with the needs of the Air Force.

If you know where Private Griffith is located, have him write me a personnel letter. Every attempt will be made to assign him to any desired Air Force base where practice facilities are available.

You will realize that Private Griffith's Air Force duty is of primary importance. However, any assignment that will accomplish his Air Force duty and utilize his athletic ability will be for the best interest of the Air Force.

This office appreciates your interest in this matter and can assure you of our continued cooperation.

ROBERT P. PARSONS
Captain, USAF

May 15, 1951

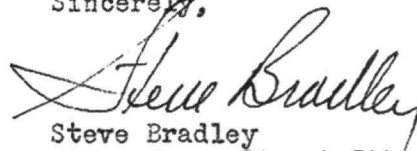
Dear Mrs. Griffith:

When I heard that Jimmy had been inducted into the Air Force I immediately composed a letter to the Department of the Air Force in Washington, D. C., in which I mentioned something of Jimmy's record as a skier and the fact that he is an outstanding member of the 1952 American Olympic team. It was my hope that by bringing this matter to their attention someone in the Air Force might give Jimmy the opportunity to ski on that team even though he were in uniform. Generally, the Air Force has been very good about such matters.

Recently, I received a letter from Washington which I shall enclose to you giving some hope, I believe, that when Jimmy receives his permanent assignment he may be able to find a way to continue as a member of the Olympic team with the blessings of the Air Force behind him. Since I do not have Jim's address, would you kindly forward to him the enclosed copy of the letter I received from Washington.

We are all so fond of Jim that any way we might help guarantee his continued membership on the Olympic team is really the very least we can do for him. My best wishes to you and Mr. Griffith.

Sincerely,


Steve Bradley
United States Olympic Ski
Games Committee, 1952

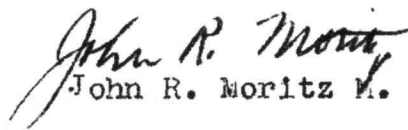
SUN VALLEY HOSPITAL
SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

JOHN R. MORITZ, M. D. F. A. C. S.
ROBERT G. WEDEMEYER, M. D.

July 22, 1950

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have had the opportunity to know Mr. James A. Griffith, Ketchum, Idaho personally since 1939. During that time as his family's physician, I have observed him as a student and as an athlete. His participation in sports has not only revealed unusual ability but a type of sportsmanship which is unsurpassed. This interest and ability in sports has been equaled scholastically in which field Mr. Griffith has demonstrated the same type of concentration and effort. His scholastic effort since I have known him has been directed toward obtaining training in medicine. His family background and his moral standards, combined with the above mentioned qualities are so unassailable that I have felt a desire and a responsibility to encourage this scholastic ambition for I believe that Mr. Griffith would become a great credit to the medical profession and to all of the ideals for which it stands.


John R. Moritz M. D.

U.S. AIR FORCE
RECOMMENDATION

SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

SUN VALLEY OPERATIONS
AND
UTAH PARKS COMPANY

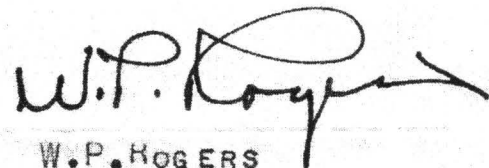
JULY 22, 1950

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

JAMES ALBERT GRIFFITH HAS BEEN KNOWN TO ME OVER A LONG PERIOD OF YEARS. DURING HIS VACATIONS FROM SCHOOL HE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED AT SUN VALLEY DURING THE YEARS 1942, 1944, 1945, 1947, 8, 9 AND 1950 IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES SUCH AS SKI PATROLMAN, CADDY MASTER, RESPECTIVELY.

HE IS OF EXEMPLARY CHARACTER AND ABILITY, POSSESSES A MOST PLEASING PERSONALITY AND IS A CONSCIENTIOUS WORKER IN ANY ASSIGNMENT GIVEN TO HIM. HE IS AN ALL-AROUND ATHLETE AND EXCELS PARTICULARLY IN SKIING.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING HE IS CONTEMPLATING ENTERING SOME BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES AND I KNOW HE WILL PROVE AN ASSET IN ANYTHING HE UNDERTAKES.



W.P. ROGERS
GENERAL MANAGER
SUN VALLEY, UTAH PARKS OPERATIONS

WPR:FL

U.S. AIR FORCE
RECOMMENDATION



SUN VALLEY SKI CLUB
SUN VALLEY, IDAHO
September 18, 1951

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

James A. Griffith has been employed here at Sun Valley as an experienced Ski Patrolman for several winter seasons. His duty was primarily first aid, and the evacuation of injured skiers. Jim always performed his work in a manner that restored confidence and hope to the casualty.

Many times throughout his employment, Jim was placed in charge of the Sun Valley Ski Team. In addition to being a top skier, Jim was also able to assume the responsibilities of transportation, and meals and lodgings for the entire group. On every occasion, I found him to be efficient and honest, also popular with the members of the team.

Jim has been selected three times to represent the United States in International Ski Competition. Two of the three times, character was as much a deciding factor as was skiing ability. He is presently a member of the United States Olympic Downhill and Slalom Team.

In the past ten years I have employed and been associated with a great many young men, and I believe Jim Griffith to be considerably above average in all respects.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Nelson A. Bennett', is positioned above the typed name.

NELSON A. BENNETT
SUPT. OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

U.S. AIR FORCE
RECOMMENDATION

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
BOULDER, COLORADO

October 16 1951

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Jim Griffith was employed as a waiter in our dining room for four years. He came to us with very good recommendations from another house on the campus. During his last two years here, Jim served as Head Waiter. In this capacity he was in charge of all personnel in our kitchen and dining room, and was responsible for the preparation and serving of meals and for the ordering and care of supplies. I, myself, worked under him in the kitchen and found him to have every quality of a good leader.

In addition to the above mentioned duties, Jim served the Fraternity in various executive capacities. As Social Chairman he planned and organized our social functions with other groups on the campus, and with our Alumni and Mothers Club. In this capacity he demonstrated unusual initiative and ability.

We haven't had the equal of Jim since he left.

Bill Lynch
President, Beta Kappa of
Phi Gamma Delta
1029 Broadway
Boulder, Colorado

U.S. AIR FORCE
RECOMMENDATION

-:- SUN VALLEY OPERATIONS -:-
SUN VALLEY, IDAHO.

W. P. Rogers, General Manager
Sun Valley - Utah Parks Operations

Florence M. Law
Ass't to General Manager

E. F. Seagle, Chief Engineer and
Ass't to General Manager

Winston McCrea, Manager
Sun Valley Lodge - Challenger Inn

September 13, 1951

To Whom it may Concern:

Re: James Griffith, Ketchum, Idaho

Gentlemen:

"Jimmy" Griffith has been well known by me since 1938. He started as a caddie in Sun Valley Golf Course - of which I am general manager - and, because he had superior administrative ability, was Caddie Master and my assistant in supply control, registration of guests, general management of golf course office.

It is a pleasure to recommend to your attention the high character and attainments of "Jimmy" James Griffith.

Very truly yours,

Edward J. Fagan
E. J. FAGAN
Supervisor
Sun Valley Golf Course

U.S. AIR FORCE
RECOMMENDATION



Sun Valley Golf Course

SUN VALLEY PHYSIO-THERAPY DEPARTMENT

F. J. "Packey" BOYLE, Supervisor

October 20, 1951

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that I have known James Griffith of Kelchum for the past fourteen years and have with deep interest his future from Boy Scout Work to his finishing his Medical.

He passed all requirements in sports such as Swimming, Skiing, Water Safety and Life Saving and finishing with Eagle Scout Award, becoming Assistant Scout leader.

An able man with first aid and valuable help to me during the F.I.S. race held in Aspen Colo. 1950.

Each summer and Holiday vacation he assisted me in Sun Valley with all injuries, his ability is beyond the average and in physio and Hydro P Therapy, including dialthermy and bandaging, I can highly recommend him.

He is a close student of sport, his experience and administration would be an asset to any hospital, camp or first aid station. I highly recommend Mr. Griffith

Respectfully
Dr. F. J. "Packey" Boyle

U.S. AIR FORCE
RECOMMENDATION

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

BOULDER, COLORADO

September 27, 1951

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DEANS ROOM

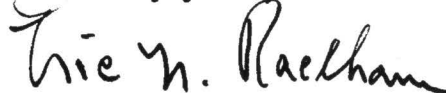
To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that James Albert Griffith is a graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Colorado, having graduated with the degree Bachelor of Arts on June 9, 1951.

I have known Jim Griffith very well for the last five years, for he was a student at this institution for most of that time. I consider him to be a splendid person in every respect and I know that he was well liked by his classmates. While a student here he was very active in extra-curricular activities, having served in such capacities as general chairman of the Winter Carnival in 1949, as a member of the executive board of the "C" Club (an organization restricted to those men who have lettered in athletics at the University), and as an executive officer in his fraternity. I have never known Jim Griffith to be other than pleasant and courteous in manner, considerate of the needs and interests of others — in short, a gentleman. I probably need not mention his accomplishments as a skier, since he has earned a national reputation in this sport.

I would say that Jim Griffith is adapted by interest and temperament for administrative and personnel responsibilities. I should be happy to write in further detail concerning him if this be necessary.

Sincerely yours,



Eric N. Rackham
Assistant Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

ENR
eje

U.S. AIR FORCE
RECOMMENDATION

Box 302
Jackson, Wyoming

Dear Jim-

Enclosed is a letter for you to deliver to your
draft board. Be sure and get it there right away.

Tentative plans are to go from Jan 10th to March 15th. How
will this fit in with your plans?

The NSA will pay for your trip via air to and from
the Austrian border. Austria will pay board, room and travel.
But it would be good to have some extra cash in case you
want to go to the Kadarhar in Italy etc.

Let me know right away what you hear from the draft board.

Best wishes,

J

Jim.

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Telegram or Cable-
gram unless its de-
ferred character is in-
dicated by a suitable
symbol above or pre-
ceding the address.

WESTERN
UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1204

SYMBOLS

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NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

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NO 4 J PK CK PB GOVT FM SN WASHINGTON D.C. 6PM DEC 27, 1950

JAMES A GRIFFITH,
KETCHUM, IDAHO

GENERAL HERSHEY ADVISES HE WILL AUTHORIZE STATE DRAFT HEADQUARTERS
TO PERMIT YOUR AUSTRIAN TRIP. IF YOU NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN
THIS CONNECTION ADVISE ME.

HENRY DWORSHAK
U.S.SENATE

NORTHLAND SKI MANUFACTURING CO

C. A. LUND, PRESIDENT



NORTH SAINT PAUL 9, MINNESOTA

August 2, 1951

Mr. James Griffith
Box 997
Ketchum, Idaho

Dear Jim:

May I take this opportunity to extend our hearty congratulations on your selection as a member of the 1952 Olympic Ski Team.


We have just been advised by the Olympic Ski Games Committee that they are not going to supply skis to the Downhill Slalom squads. We are therefore pleased to offer you Northland Skis, for use in the Olympics, at a special price of \$15.00 per pair without steel edges, with or without plastic top edges. This price is quoted F.O.B. Factory.

If you plan to use Northland Skis I would suggest that you let us have your specifications without delay. Otherwise we may be unable to supply them in time for your requirements, due to the fact that we are working on large Army contracts.

With kindest regards, and wishing you lots of luck, I remain

Sincerely yours,

NORTHLAND SKI MFG. CO.


C. A. Lund, President.

CAL:ca

Perrin Cadet, Intercollegiate Ski Champ, May Enter Olympics

A big raw-boned lad from Sun Valley, Idaho — the spawning grounds for American ski champions—is at Perrin keeping his fingers crossed.

He has been selected as one of eight young men scattered throughout the United States to represent this country in the winter olympics in Norway next Feb. 12-16 and will enter, the world crisis permitting.

"I've been told that I would be able to participate, but of course nothing is definite with me being in the service," said medical technician James Griffith.

He came into the Air Force at Boise, Idaho, last April and went to Sheppard Air Force Base for basic training and later was transferred to Perrin.

"The Olympic games are but four months away, and I haven't practiced since last winter. I broke my leg last year and this has kept me from practice. It is one of the hazards of the sport," he grinned.

Griffith will enter the Alpine Combined division of the winter Olympics, if he is permitted to travel to England. This division is composed of downhill racing and the slalom. Downhill racing usually covers a course ranging from two miles to five miles. The slalom is a tougher, shorter, zigzag course, marked by poles flying pennants.

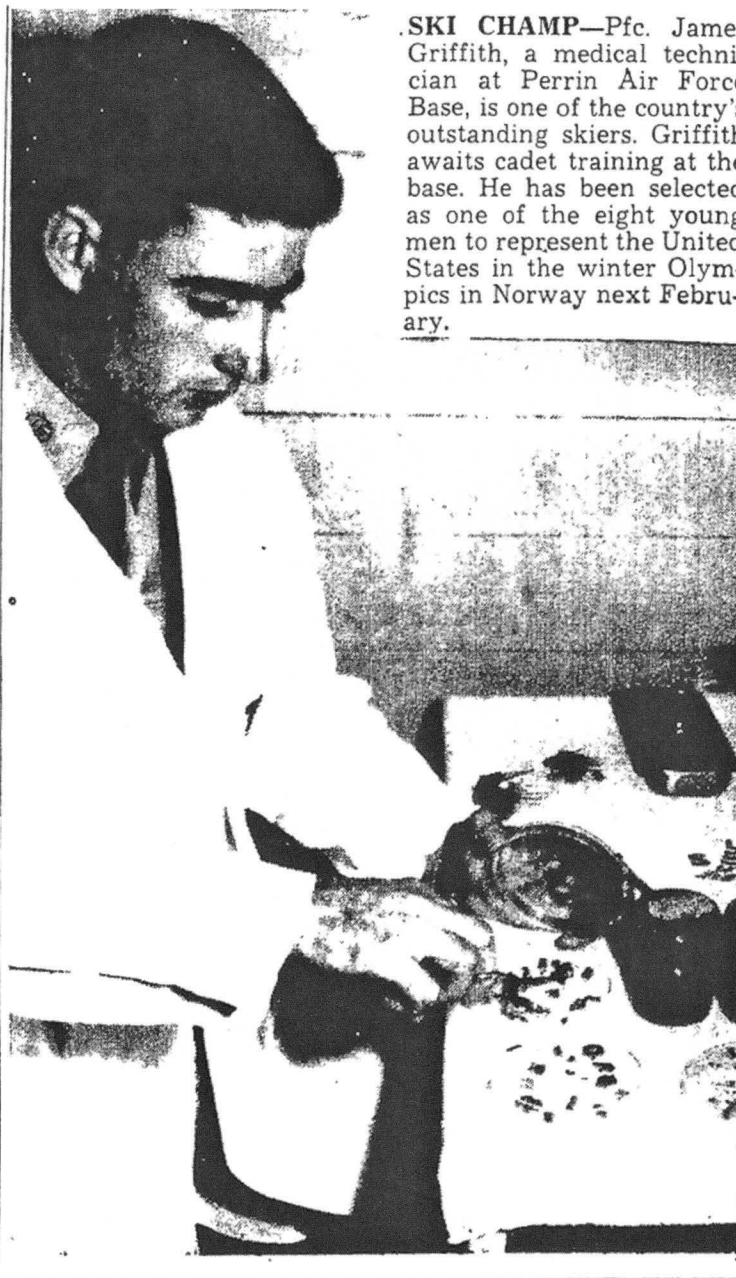
The other two events of a ski meet, jumping and cross country, are under the heading of Classic Combined. The Scandinavian countries have taken these two particular events since the winter olympics were originated.

Griffith, only 22, is a tournament veteran. He began competition during his sophomore year at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Since that date he has won the intercollegiate slalom, Argentine National championship, Chilean Downhill National Championship and was a member of the United States in the Federal International Ski World Championship and was a members of the three man team in the North American championships the same year.

Griffith, who explains that he is a little too heavy for his specialty, started out his career at the age of 11 on the famous slopes of Sun Valley. He earned three

varsity letters in skiing and participated in gymnastics four years while earning a Bachelor of Science degree in pre-med at the University of Colorado.

After being discharged from the Air Force, he hopes to enter an eastern medical school and receive his doctor's degree in medicine.



SKI CHAMP—Pfc. James Griffith, a medical technician at Perrin Air Force Base, is one of the country's outstanding skiers. Griffith awaits cadet training at the base. He has been selected as one of the eight young men to represent the United States in the winter Olympics in Norway next February.



In 1951, Jimmy Griffith from Ketchum, Idaho, and Brooks Dodge from Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire, were chosen by the National Ski Association (NSA) to represent the U.S.A. in South America. Jimmy placed first in the downhill and combined while Brooks placed first in slalom competitions.

UNITED STATES OLYMPIC SKI GAMES COMMITTEE

VI OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

OSLO, NORWAY

FEBRUARY 14-24, 1952

COMMITTEE

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606 South Hill Street
Los Angeles 14, California

ROGER LANGLEY, Secretary
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Barre, Massachusetts

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3742 West Galena Street
Milwaukee 8, Wisconsin

STEPHEN J. BRADLEY
2424 Fourth Street
Boulder, Colorado

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Williams College
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465 Federal Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

DR. AMOS R. LITTLE, JR.
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Helena, Montana

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Dartmouth Outing Club
Hanover, New Hampshire

MRS. GRETCHEN FRAZER
7617 East Maple Avenue
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LADIES' TEAM

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170 East 71st Street
New York, N. Y.

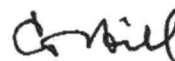
November 12, 1951

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that James Griffith of Ketchum, Idaho has been officially appointed by the United States Olympic Committee to the U. S. Men's Downhill Slalom Ski Team and is to compete for the United States in the 1952 Olympic Winter Games to be held in Oslo, Norway.

He is to join his team and coach in New York, January 1, 1952 and depart for Zurich Switzerland via Pan American World Airways on January 2, 1952, thence to Murren, Switzerland and St. Anton, Austria for training prior to entering Olympic Games in Oslo, Norway on February 14-24, 1952.

Yours very truly



Cortlandt T. Hill, Chairman
U. S. Olympic Ski Games Committee

CTH:AKB

CC: Passport Division
Draft Board or
Commanding Officer

Officials

Committee, Coaches and Managers



Cortlandt T. Hill

Cortlandt T. Hill, of Los Angeles, California, became Chairman of the Olympic Ski Games Committee following the death of Alfred D. Lindley, February, 1951. Corty has done a tremendous amount of work since that time and has been assisted by a committee of nine, of which he is a member and the chairman. Other committee members are Roger Langley, Secretary, Arthur J Barth, John Jay, John Rand, Mrs. Gretchen Fraser, F C. Koziol, Dr. Amos R. Little, Jr., and Stephen Bradley. Sub-committees on each phase handled selections of team members.

Head manager of the entire Olympic ski squad is John M. Herbert of Washington, D. C. Mr. Herbert is a member of the White Pine (Nev.) Ski Club and the Ski Club of Washington, D.C.

Chronology of Jimmy Griffith's Major Races 1947 - 1951

Year	Event	Placement
1947	The Sixth Annual Sun Valley Intercollegiate Meet, December 28-31 Bradley Plate Sun Valley Invitational 4-Way Ski Meet Downhill, Slalom, Jumping, X country	Colorado States Ski Team 1st place: Gordon Wren, Crosby Perry Smith, Marvin Crawford, Jim Griffith Individual Events: Jim Griffith — 7th Downhill, 17th Cross Country (XC), 23rd Slalom, 13th Jump
1947	1948 Olympic Tryouts in Sun Valley (Jimmy Griffith's first major race)	Jimmy was injured and unable to ski during the remaining season.
1948	Roch Cup, Aspen	2nd Downhill, 3rd Combined
1948	Harriman Cup Sun Valley	7th Amateur Combined
1948	North American, Aspen	12th Combined
1949	Roch Cup, Aspen	3rd Downhill
1949	U.S. Nationals, Sun Valley	2nd Amateur Downhill; 3rd Amateur Slalom and Combined; 3rd Open Downhill, 34th Open Combined
1949	Harriman Cup, Sun Valley	5th Combined; Open Competition; 3rd Downhill
1950	FIS International Race, Aspen	18th Downhill; Jimmy fell and still finished the race as the highest placing American
1950	National Downhill Championships, Sun Valley	1st Open and Amateur Downhill 2nd Combined; 6th slalom, NATIONAL CHAMPION
1951	Argentinian National Championships: Bariloche, Argentina Portillo, Chile Kandahar of the Andes	Placement in South American Races: 1st Downhill/Combined 1st Downhill/Combined 1st Downhill/Combined [South American Champion]
1951	National Giant Slalom, Alta	4th Place
1951	Harriman Cup, Sun Valley	14th Downhill, 23rd slalom, 16th Combined (while suffering from an ankle injury and a blood disease)
1951	Olympic Tryouts, Sun Valley, Idaho	The injuries caused the Olympic Committee to scratch Jimmy (along with Jack Nagel) from racing.
1951	Jimmy was Selected as a member of the 1952 U.S. Olympic Ski Team, Men's Downhill and Slalom.	



*1949 Harriman Cup Slalom,
Sun Valley, Idaho*

Letter from Jimmy to his parents



3555TH STATION MEDICAL SQUADRON

PERRIN AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS

5 November 51

Dear Folks,

Sorry not to have gotten a letter off to you last week, but there wasn't a darn thing to write about, and not that this week is a great deal different.

The weather has been extremely cold, a sustained near or sub-zero temperature for nearly ten days. The cloud cover has finally broken up, but it remains pleasantly chilly. One day I woke up to see it snowing, and later learned that it was the earliest snow-fall in the history of Texas. Be about my luck for the weather to close in again just as I get my transfer.

This weekend I had planned to get to go to Denver. Our Hospital Adjutant, upon learning that I was a member of the Team (and I think by order from the Colonel) called the other day and told me that until my transfer was effected, he would get me up to Denver for training on weekends. The weather was bad enuf all week that none of the T-6's were cleared for cross-country and the only B-25 (capable of flying thru all weather) was headed for San Francisco. As it happened, our Adjutant wanted to take me to Frisco with him on that plane, but finances and uncertainty as to whether Janie would be there kept me here. (not that the ride itself would cost-it's free).

For the past couple of weeks I have been printing signs for our department. They seem to have made a great impression on all the brass. My talents just may have gotten me compensation in the form of extra work---I have been approached several times already on the subject of printing several dozen signs for the hospital. In fact the Colonel in command of the Hospital was so impressed that he brought the Base Commander in one day to see my signs. The latter was very complimentary, and spent some time asking me about skiing and Cadets. So if you have any friends who need a little drag, just refer them to me. The only thing I can't get is a promotion for myself!

I have, incidentally, been put in for promotion, but it won't come thru before I leave I don't imagine. The promotion set-up is about the biggest mess I've ever heard of, and it isn't helped along a bit by the numbskulls they have running it,

No word at all from the higher echelon in skiing---they better hurry else I miss the boat! Gosh, I have been getting write-ups in the Texas newspapers, believe it or not. I have even been on radio interview. I was selected as Airman of the Month by the Squadron and Group. If the chain of command sees fit to exert a little energy and puts me in, I have a chance of winning the vague honor of being Amn of the Mo for the base.

1

Nomination of Outstanding Airmen of the Month

1 CO, 8 Nov 51
3555th
Med Gp CO, Perrin
J AF, Base

1. In compliance with par 3 Base Regulation 35-1, 8 May 1951, Pfc James A. Griffith AF 19 403 983, has been selected as Airman of the Month for the 3555th Medical Group.

2. Pfc Griffith was nominated as outstanding Airman for the Month of October for the excellent manner in which he carried out his duties as Senior Medical and Surgical Technician in the Out-Patient Clinic of this hospital. Pfc Griffith was also nominated for his excellent character, military bearing and dress. He is very courteous to his fellow airmen, patients, and his officers. He has shown outstanding ingenuity in his ability to solve problems which occur every day in his line of work. He has been eager to learn more than is normally required for an airman in his position.

3. Pfc Griffith enlisted in the Air Force the 9 April 1951, and arrived at Perrin Air Force Base the 13 June 1951. Pfc Griffith was born on the 14 Feb 29 at Boise, Idaho, but now resides at Ketchum, Idaho (Sun Valley, Idaho).

4. Pfc Griffith graduated from Hailey High School, Ketchum Idaho and went on to the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado. He received his B.A Degree in June 51 (Pre-Med). His major subjects were Sociology, Chemistry, Zoology, German.

5. Pfc. Griffith participated in High School Football and Basketball and lettered 3 years in each. He also participated in Gymnastics, swimming, intramural football in college and lettered 3 years in college skiing. He is a certified Red Cross Swimming and Life Saving Instructor.

6. Pfc Griffith holds the Men's National Downhill Skiing Champion for 1950, Amateur and Open. He is a present member of the United States Olympic Team, 1952 and is a current Member of the United States International Racing Team.

WALTER D SCHIRMER
Capt., USAF (MSC)
Asst. Adj.



"Reaching for the Stars. . ."

Jim Griffith's Ski Accident

Jimmy's transfer from Perrin Air Force Base in Texas to Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah took place in November. He was flying his Beechcraft T-34 trainer plane to Ketchum, Idaho. Darkness set in as he reached the Kemmerer, Wyoming Airport, forcing him to land. Lights were turned on so he could see the snowy runway through the snow storm that ultimately prevented him from taking off. Consequently, he left his plane to be recovered later, and traveled by train to Idaho. Jimmy was able to spend two days with his parents, sister and eight month old namesake between spurts of downhill ski practice on lower Warm Springs run on Baldy Mountain. This was the last time his family would see him alive.

Eager to get back in skiing condition, Jimmy traveled from Hill Air Force Base to Alta, Utah to climb the mountain before the ski lift started, and practice downhill runs while waiting for his military release orders to come through. One morning the snow conditions had changed and as he was executing a high speed turn onto a sharp, narrow trail, he hit breakable crust that threw him into the clump of trees lining the trail resulting in two broken bones in his leg. He appeared to be recovering in the Salt Lake City hospital until the third day, when Darrel Robinson a fellow Olympian from Salt Lake notified Jimmy's parents that he had fallen into a coma. W.P. Rogers, General Manager of Sun Valley, Idaho sent a driver to take them to the hospital. He passed on at 6:30 a.m., December 6 without regaining consciousness. He was being treated for a blood clot, but his autopsy disclosed that a fat embolism was the cause of death.

Years later I spoke with Alf Engen highly regarded internationally in the skiing field and the head of the Alta Ski School at the time. He was one of the first to reach Jimmy with other dedicated rescuers after the long climb to reach him. As efficient and timely as the rescue was, he still had remorse over the time taken to get Jimmy to the hospital in Salt Lake City. Early in the morning a day or so later Alf Engen quietly took his axe and climbed up the mountain to the clump of trees and chopped them down to prevent the same kind of accident from happening to another skier.

Jimmy Griffith Memorial Award Established By Club

Sun Valley Ski Club
Selection Committee
Will Choose Winners

SUN VALLEY — Because of the high esteem in which Jimmy Griffith was held by skiers everywhere, the Sun Valley Ski Club has initiated steps to establish a perpetual memorial to honor the name of this great champion who died Dec. 6, 1951 as the result of an accident at Alta, Utah while practicing as a member of the U. S. Olympic Ski team.

The club will secure and hang in its office in the Sun Valley Lodge a silver plaque to be known as the Jimmy Griffith Memorial Award. Upon this plaque will be inscribed each year the name of the Sun Valley Ski Club man racer who in the opinion of a local selection committee best exemplifies the qualities of sportsmanship and excellence of performance so charac-

teristic of Jim's racing career.

The award will be purchased with funds contributed from skiers all over the country.

Named by the club on the Selection Committee to choose the winner of the award are seven active members. Headed up by Jim's sister, Mary Jane Marin, the Committee will include W. P. Rogers, Sigi Engl, Barney McLean, Eddie Seagle, Nelson Bennett and Bob Blakslee.

In addition, four honorary members have been appointed: Steve Bradley of Boulder, Colorado; Dev Jennings of Salt Lake City; Yasi Teramoto of Parlier, California; and Emile Allais of Squaw Valley. The initial award will be made at this year's Harriman Cup banquet in March.

In Memoriam

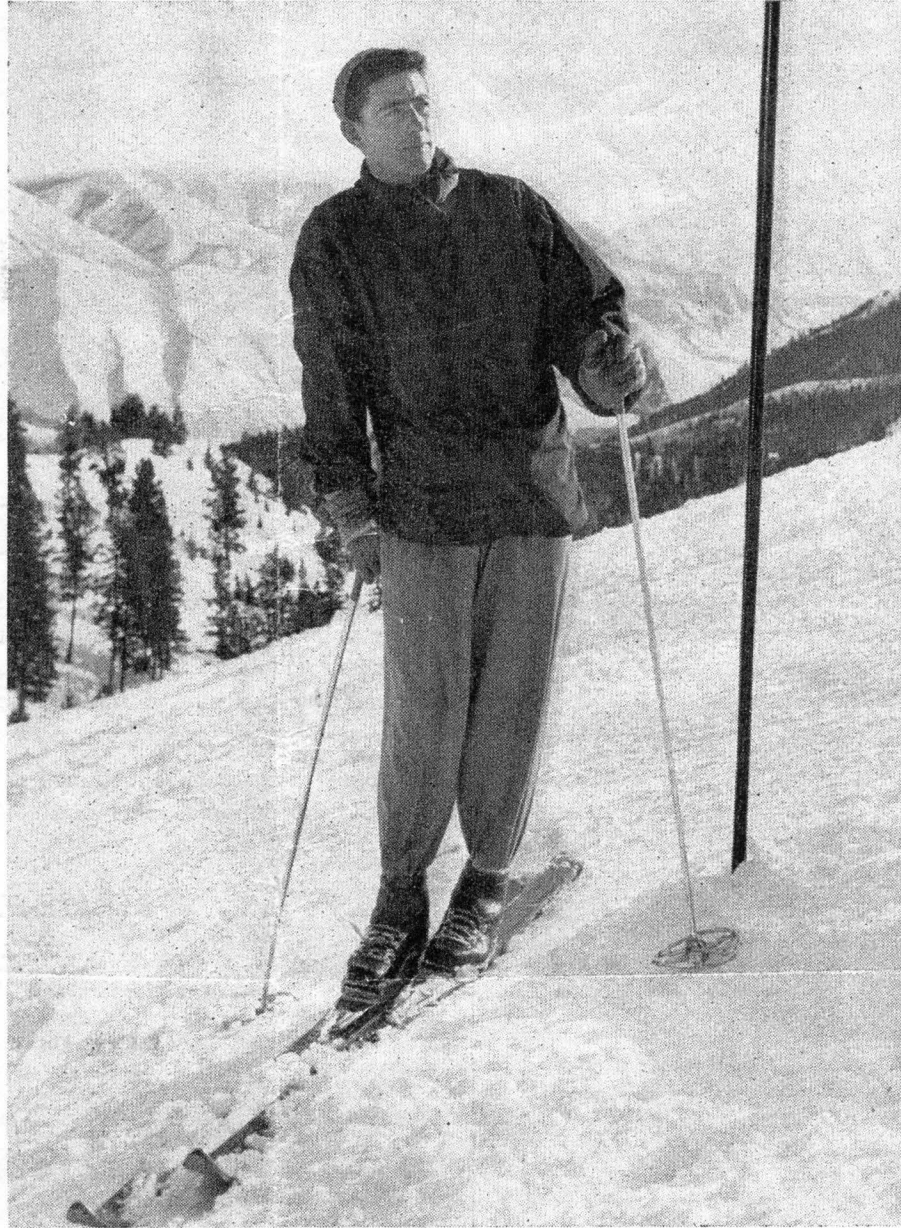
The recent death of Jimmy Griffith has saddened the entire ski world. This tragic loss has been an especially keen blow to us here in Sun Valley, for it was on these very slopes that Jimmy learned his skiing and recorded many of his major triumphs.

A member of both the 1950 FIS and 1952 Olympic Teams, he was generally regarded as the finest downhill runner in all America. But he was more than just a great ski racer. He was a true champion who gave all of himself every inch of the way and who, because of his exemplary modesty and sportsmanship, commanded the respect of all who competed against him.

Although Jimmy will not accompany his team mates to Europe when they board a Pan American airliner in New York on January 2nd, his spirit will most certainly be with them on the flight. And at Oslo, it will be his love of the sport which will serve as an inspiration to those who wear the U. S. colors at this greatest of all international competitions.

To Jimmy's family we extend our sincerest and deepest sympathies along with our tribute to this great champion: James Albert Griffith, a skier who gave to the sport immeasurable honor.

Crash Fatal to Jimmy Griffith, Member of '52 Olympic Team



JIMMY GRIFFITH

SALT LAKE CITY — James Griffith, 22, member of the 1952 U. S. Olympic downhill-slalom team, died here Dec. 6, three days after he crashed into a tree at Alta while training for the Olympics. Cause of death was a blood clot condition.

A native of Ketchum, Idaho, Grif-

fith was one of the most likely contenders for Olympic honors. He was the top American in the 1950 FIS competition, finishing 18th after a fall which robbed him of fourth position.

William Beck, Kingston, R. I., has been named Griffith's replacement.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1204

SYMBOLS

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LC=Deferred Cable

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Ship Radiogram

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PK SA DL PD

DENVER COLO

1032 AM DEC. 7, 1951

MR. AND MRS GRIFFITH
AND FAMILY,
KETCHUM, IDAHO

HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE SHOCKING NEWS OF JIMMYS TRAGIC DEATH.
AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS TO EXPRESS MY FEELING AND SYMPATHY TO YOU.
NOT ONLY WE, BUT THE SKI SPORT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD HAVE LOST A SWELL BOY
AND A TOP ATHLETIC. AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL SKI ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
REPRESENTING ORGANIZED SKIING IN THE UNITED STATES, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT
HE WAS HELD IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM AS A TRUE GENTLEMAN, TERRIFIC COMPETITOR
SPORTSMAN, AND WE WILL MOURN HIS LOSS VERY VERY DEEPLY.

FRED C BELLMAR, PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SKI ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

1 38 P M

1951 DEC 7 AM 9 41

41CA

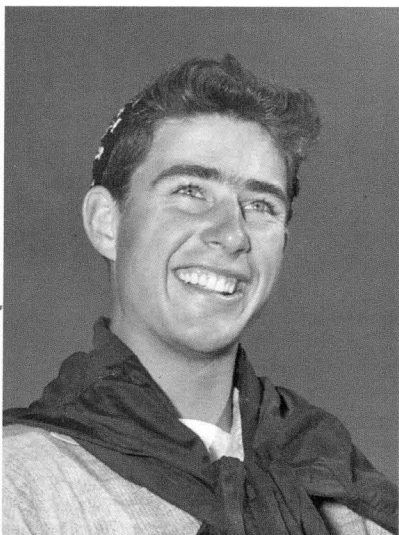
OMA 7 1017A

WPR SUNVLY

I WAS AWFULLY SORRY TO LEARN OF THE DEATH OF JIMMY GRIFFITHS AND WILL
APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WILL EXPRESS MY SYMPATHY TO MEMBERS OF HIS
FAMILY. S 298

A E STODDARD.

President of the Union Pacific Railroad



Sun Valley

JIMMY GRIFFITH, tabbed by many as the nation's outstanding hope in the Winter Olympic Games, never had a formal lesson in his life, but picked up his entire sack of stick tricks by watching top artists work out on the slopes at Sun Valley.

The 22-year-old Ketchum, Idaho, ace, who was raised in the shadow of Mount Baldy, granddaddy of all Sun Valley peaks, originally was attracted to membership in the hickory fraternity by the proximity of his home to the skiing capital of the nation.

There also was the matter of masculine pride. A sister, several years his senior, was receiving instruction at the world famous Sun Valley Ski School and rapidly was outstripping the boy.

Griffith got down to serious skiing in 1941, when he began chasing around the slopes with the Sun Valley Ski Patrol, a hard-riding group of men which covers the resort's mountains to watch over the safety of guests.

He received casual instruction and great inspiration from the men in this group, and he had to learn to ski well to keep up with the veteran patrol members.

As Griffith began to develop, he caught the eyes of many of the experts who instruct at the Sun Valley Ski School, and they took him aside for a few moments to give him rapid tips on how to improve the style that later carried him to a national amateur championship in downhill competition.

Griffith profited from the words of the masters, who always were willing to work with promising youngsters in the hope of developing top racers.

But for the most part, he merely watched and then put what he saw into action.

In Memoriam

JIMMY GRIFFITH

THE WORLD of skiing sustained a great loss last week with the death of Jimmy Griffith in a Salt Lake hospital. A blood clot resulting from an accident suffered during his first day in training at Alta proved fatal. We humbly join the rest of skiers everywhere in paying respects to this fine young athlete.

His training was interrupted during the war, when Sun Valley was turned over to the Navy for use as a hospital. He did keep his hand in by climbing Mount Baldy to ski its extensive trails, but there were no instructors with timely words of advice, and the motionless ski lifts made real work of the sport.

In 1947, Griffith began skiing for the University of Colorado, where he enrolled in premedical school. He was sent to the nationals that year, but an injury there ended his work for the season.

Griffith became a member of the Sun Valley Ski Patrol in 1947, and began his serious competition in 1948, when he copped second in downhill and third in combined at the Roch cup races, seventh in amateur combined in the Harriman cup, and twelfth in combined in the North American.

In 1949, Griffith again took third in the Roch cup. In the nationals, he was third in amateur slalom and combined, second in amateur downhill and third in open downhill. In the Harriman Cup races that year, he was third in downhill and fifth in combined.



Sun Valley

• Jimmy Griffith grew up on the slopes at Sun Valley

GRIFFITH HAD his greatest year in 1950, and he attributed his great improvement to the techniques he picked up while watching Emile Allais, the French flier, perform at Sun Valley in 1949.

In the 1950 nationals, he was first in open and amateur downhill, sixth in amateur slalom and second in amateur combined. He fell in the FIS meet and in the Harriman Cup's men's combined, finished nineteenth behind the flashy field of foreign racers, which competed that year.

Griffith and Easterner Brooks Dodge traveled to South America in the summer of '50, and the Ketchum speedster skied off with every race he entered.

In the Argentina nationals, he won downhill and slalom titles. He swept the Kandahar of the Andes competition in that same country and went on to cop first in the downhill and combined in the Chilean national races.

Last winter in addition to his fourth in the National Giant Slalom, Jim was 16th in the Harriman Cup combined, finishing 23rd in the slalom and 14th in the downhill.

Griffith went to Sun Valley for the Olympic try-outs, but had just finished a bout with some sort of blood disease, and was also handicapped by an ankle injury. The Olympic committee scratched both him and Jack Nagel since the group felt both boys would ski to win and, in doing so, would risk further injury.

Last March he graduated from premed school, and entered the Army the following month. Up until recently the Ketchum ace was stationed at the Perrin Air Force base in Texas, and was assigned to Headquarters 3555th Medical Group.

Griffith had just been transferred to the Salt Lake area so that he might be able to train for the Winter Olympics.



In Memoriam

Smiling Jimmy Griffith. It's funny but that name now kind of makes shivers run through a guy's whole body. Those who knew Grif, whether they were his skiing partners, his classmates, his fraternity brothers under the white star or whether they just knew him to say a casual hello, will feel deep sorrow whenever that dark December day is mentioned.

Jim had that warm way about himself that attracted people and those whom he attracted were never disappointed that they had made his acquaintance. Not because he was a big name in the skiing world, nor because he was handsome and had a winning smile, but because Grif had character and that character stood out all over him at all times.

The 22 year old fellow, who could do everything but pass physics, might have been an Olympic champion—he surely would have been a top contender—but he already had what it took to be a champion before he ever knew how to ski. Grif was born with the goods of which life's champions are made.

Beta Kappa and Grif's multitude of friends all over the world deeply regret his untimely death.

Letter from Jimmy to his parents



HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

3555TH MEDICAL GROUP

PERRIN AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS

15 October 51



Dear Folks,

Well, I'm a day late with this, but perhaps it's just as well because if I had written on time you wouldn't have gotten the benefit of the great news I received today.

The news was from Corty in St. Paul. I'm about to be sprung! He said a Major Rossi from USAF Headquarters in Washington was going around the country making arrangements for the Games with the members affected. Apparently this fellow was here to see me last week, but no body knew anything about my case and apparently didn't try very hard to find out. At any rate, the Major is making a special trip back to Perrin to see me this week. Sure hope he doesn't forget. Corty said that after I talk to him it should be only a matter of a week or so before my transfer comes thru. According to Corty, I may have my choice of transfer between Salt Lake or California (near Squaw Valley so as to be with Emile, which would also be reasonably near San Francisco). I tentatively chose Salt Lake because it is closer to home and to the Denver area; also because snow comes earlier there. Besides, it wouldn't do me any good to ski with Emile in as poor shape as I'm now in. I'll get a couple of weeks with him later on (months that is).

You have, of course, guessed correctly about my business venture. It has worked out pretty well so far too. The plane is a retired primary Air Force Trainer. I bought it with only 200 hours total time on it. Apparently it had been made near enuf the end of the war that it wasn't used by the government at all. Also at the time I bought it a year's license had just been provided. It is equipped with two new parachutes (worth fifty dollars each), a CO₂ flask for automatically extinguishing engine fires, dozens of instruments some of which are worth fifty dollars each, and many other features. It isn't as shiny as some, nor so comfortable, but it is stressed for any type of flight except prolonged inverted (which is impossible because it isn't equipped with a fuel injector carburetor system), and this means that one can learn anything in it.

By allowing Stan (the boy with the plane at home) to instruct a few of our friends in it, I have, in one month, paid off about 100 dollars of the cost of the plane, have paid my own flying costs, and will have bought insurance by the end of the week.

If I do get transferred to Salt Lake, I can fly it there in around ten hours, and may thereupon make a few dollars profit on the government. Once there, I can get home in about two hours at a cost of around ten dollars per round trip. If someone wants to share expenses once in a while, \$5 would be pretty cheap transportation. When I get my license, I can pick up spending money taking people up for rides (but don't spread it around, because taking people up for more than expenses is frowned upon without a Commercial license).



*Sun Valley Ski patrolmen Burke Pullman, Al Vail, and Dick Buek
(a fellow 1952 Olympian and first recipient of the Sun Valley Ski Club Jimmy Griffith Memorial Award)
retrieved Jimmy's trainer plane in Kemmerer, Wyoming in the early spring of 1952.*

The story of recovering Jim's airplane from the Kemmerer, Wyoming Airport in the spring of 1952:

In the spring of 1952 several Sun Valley Ski Patrolmen friends volunteered to retrieve Jimmy's plane at the Kemmerer Airport where it had been during the winter. Burke Pullman had been a Korean War pilot, Al Vail had a pilot's license and hours of flying behind him, and fellow Ski Olympian, Dick Buek, had taken up flying and accumulated some flying hours. I drove them to the isolated Kemmerer Airport, located on a Mesa about three miles north and higher than the town. The several feet of snow had not prevented looters from dismantling and removing everything possible. A quick call to the County brought a snow plow to clear the steep, narrow road up to the airport as the pilots were shoveling the snow away from the plane. They had to remove both wings, then position the body to roll slowly down the hill to the clear highway, guided by my automobile attached behind it to keep it from rolling too fast. Jimmy's friends did a remarkable job using their combined skills and speed, to get the plane ready to take off down that county highway! Al stated later "That was a unique situation. It was a fun adventure!"

The Griffith's decided to sell the aircraft and donate the profits to the 1952 Olympic Ski fund after the pilots landed the plane at the Hailey-Sun Valley airport. Prior to the sale his father, who was very fearful of flying, actually ventured to peek inside the cockpit while the plane was still safely on the ground.



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MRS ALBERT GRIFFITH

KETCHUM IDA

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR LATE SON, JIMMY, HAS
BEEN ELECTED INTO THE NATIONAL SKI HALL OF FAME. WE ALL SHARE
IN THIS HONORABLE TRIBUTE TO YOUR SON
CHARLES T GIBSON PRESIDENT. (412).

DORICE TAYLOR
Publicity Director



19 March 1971

Mrs. Albert Griffith
Ketchum, Idaho 83340

Dear Helen:

Here are the pictures of Jim that you loaned me. By this time you will, no doubt, have heard from the president of the United States Ski Association that Jim has been made a member of the Ski Hall of Fame.

As you may or may not know, Jeanette Berg Johnson and Sigi Engl have already been taken in as members of this organization. The museum of this, where the pictures will be displayed, is at Ishpeming, Michigan.

We are sending Jim's pictures out to the papers and the wire services and, although it is late in the season for ski news, we hope they will be published.

As far as all of Sun Valley is concerned, there is no one we would rather see a member of this organization than your well-loved son, who did so much to put Sun Valley skiing on the map.

Affectionately,

Dorice

DT/pt

To an Athlete Dying Young

The time you won your town the race
We chaired you through the market-place;
Man and boy stood cheering by,
And home we brought you shoulder-high.

To-day, the road all runners come,
Shoulder-high we bring you home,
And set you at your threshold down,
Townsmen of a stiller town.

Smart lad, to slip betimes away
From fields where glory does not stay
And early though the laurel grows
It withers quicker than the rose.

Eyes the shady night has shut
Cannot see the record cut,
And silence sounds no worse than cheers
After earth has stopped the ears:

Now you will not swell the rout
Of lads that wore their honours out,
Runners whom renown outran
And the name died before the man.

To set, before its echoes fade,
The fleet foot on the sill of shade,
And hold to the low lintel up
The still-defended challenge-cup.

And round that early-laurelled head
Will flock to gaze the strengthless dead,
And find unwithered on its curls
The garland briefer than a girls.

Here is a philosophy on life. I want you to read it never forget:

In the time of your life live — so that in that good time there shall be no ugliness for yourself or any life your life touches. Seek goodness everywhere, and when it is found let it be free and unashamed. Place in matter and in flesh the least of the values, for these are the things that hold death and must pass away. Discover in all things that which shines and is beyond corruption. Encourage virtue in every heart — ignore the obvious, for it is unworthy of the clear eye & kindly heart. Be the inferior of no man, nor of any man be the superior. Remember that every man is a variation of yourself. No man's guilt is not yours nor is any man's innocence a thing apart. Despise evil and ungodliness but not men of ungodliness and evil. These try to understand. Have pride in being kindly and gentle, but if the time comes in the time of your life to kill, kill and have no regrets. In the time of your life, live — so that in that wondrous time you shall not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite delight of it. ~

William Saroyan's 1940 Pulitzer Prize winner for Drama "The Time of Your Life" was especially meaningful to Jimmy during his adult life, as was apparent by the carefully preserved handwritten document in his belongings. It felt appropriate to share these words.



Jimmy skiing on Dollar

OLYMPICS 2002

A skier younger than springtime, forever

Jimmy Griffith was Ketchum's first Olympic skier

By JEFF CORDES

Express Staff Writer

In the summer of 1950, fresh from conquering South America on their skis, boyish small-town 21-year-olds Jimmy Griffith and Brooks Dodge were ushered to the best seats on Broadway in New York City to watch the best musical of the era, "South Pacific."

They felt like the toasts of the town, swooning to their own "Bali Ha'i." No one knew them—they were just alpine skiers at the dawn of the 1950s when entire neighborhoods had just one television. But they had their own special hopes and special dreams.

Younger than springtime, they were cockeyed optimists who knew from their upbringing in the mountains that you had to be carefully taught. Two of America's best skiers, Griffith and Dodge were poised to be members of the 1952 Olympic team.

Griffith never made it to Oslo, Norway for the VI Winter Olympics in 1952, although he was potentially one of the greatest ski racers ever to be developed in this country. Certainly he was one of the America's top Olympic hopes 50 years ago.

Fate doesn't discriminate.

It didn't matter that he was the grandson of one of Ketchum's founding fathers, miner Albert Griffith. It didn't matter that he was modest and sincere and hard working and just about the most All-American of young men. In today's market for athletes, he would have been money.



The grove of trees at Utah's Alta ski area wasn't forgiving.

On Dec. 2, 1951, Griffith was training for the Olympics and skiing down Alta. He was planning to join his teammates in New York City a couple of days after Christmas and they would then travel to Europe for more pre-Olympic training.

Then, he hit breakable crust near a cat track and skidded into the trees. Jimmy collided with a tree and suffered a compound fracture of his right leg. Others heard his cries for help, found him and evacuated him.

Three days later, Jimmy's condition worsened at Salt Lake City's St. Mark's Hospital. "All of a sudden, he was in a coma," said his older sister, Mary Jane Conger of Ketchum.

Sun Valley's general manager W.P. "Pappy" Rogers received a telephone call and acted at once, aware of the seriousness of the situation. Ketchum was still a small town and the Griffiths were important people.

Conger said last week, "Pappy, that wonderful man, lined up a driver for my parents. They drove through the evening to Salt Lake City, so my mother was with him when Jimmy passed away the next morning.

"They treated him for a blood clot, but he died of an undiagnosed fatty embolism."

Jimmy Griffith, first native-born Sun Valley ski racer to earn a berth on a U.S. Olympic ski team, was 22 when he died. Funeral services were on a Sunday afternoon at Sun Valley Opera House. Serving as pallbearers were fellow members of the 1952 Olympic ski team.

He was laid to rest in Ketchum Cemetery, where grave sites and head stones are now completely buried under four feet of the deepest snow.

There he remains younger than springtime, forever.

A strong, powerful and self-taught skier who also commanded respect because of his modesty and sportsmanship, Griffith was inducted into the National Ski Hall of Fame at Ishpeming, Michigan in 1972.

He never had a formal ski lesson in his short life.

Still, to this day, however, there is no memorial to Griffith at the Sun Valley resort, where he learned to ski and became America's top downhiller, and no picture of Jimmy hanging in the hallway at Sun Valley Lodge.

"Everybody who knew Jimmy was very fond of him," said his Olympic teammate, Brooks Dodge. "When we went to the Olympics in Oslo that year, 1952, everybody on the team missed him, in their own way."

The Griffiths in Ketchum

In 1879 Albert Griffith was a mining superintendent in Philipsburg, Mont. east of Hamilton. Exploring, he traveled south to Idaho that fall and found a solitary prospector named David Ketchum building a cabin on the side of a hill in Trail Creek.

When the snow melted in the spring of 1880, Griffith joined Isaac Lewis and others and became the founding fathers of the mining boomtown known as Ketchum.

Griffith's son, Albert R. Griffith, was born in 1887. He was 38 when Albert R. and his brother Oscar opened up the Griffith Grocery in the brick building at Main and Second Street that had served as the Ketchum Post Office from 1911-25.

The general store offered tourist supplies, fresh meats and fishing tackle. At least that's what the faded Griffith Brothers lettering says on the still-standing Second Street building, one of Ketchum's surviving treasures.

Mary Jane Griffith, first of two children of Albert R. and Helen C. Griffith, was born the first year the store opened, 1925. The family lived on the second floor of the store the first year, then moved two blocks up Second Street to the Shaw house, which now houses Mailboxes Etc.

Two blocks was too far away in those early days, when snow plowing was a manual exercise. So Mary Jane's father built a house that still exists at Second and Leadville, across from Esther Fairman's house, on the same block as Williams' Market.

On Valentine's Day 1929, Jimmy Griffith was born.

It was a hard, good life.

"There were only 250 people in town," recalled Mary Jane. "Living here was very carefree for children. I was an outdoor person, played in the snow, just loved it. When Sun Valley came and brought the plow in, I used to meet all the trains at the station."

The Griffith brothers ran the general store for 12 years, before they sold it to the Glenns of Hailey. Albert R. worked for Sun Valley during the war and then, suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, he retired.

He died in 1965 at the age of 78. His wife lived until 1986, when she was 87.

Mary Jane enjoys telling the story of when Union Pacific chairman and Sun Valley founder Averell Harriman went to her father and asked him if the people in Ketchum would consider changing the town's name to Sun Valley. Albert R. Griffith politely declined, saying they liked Ketchum.

The first to ski was Mary Jane, an athletic girl who benefited from ski lessons. She graduated from Hailey High School and went off to the University of Colorado in 1942, where she raced for the Buffaloes. About the time his sister left home, Jimmy started taking up skiing seriously.

Barely 13, he started chasing around the slopes with the Sun Valley Ski Patrol, a hard-riding group of men who inspired him and offered casual instruction. Jimmy had to learn to ski well to keep up. As he began to develop, he caught the eyes of veterans of the Sun Valley Ski School.

But he never had a formal lesson.

Deep and thoughtful, he watched and learned and put what he saw into action. Physically, he began to grow. He worked hard as a caddy and mowing grass on the Sun Valley Golf Course in the summer with friends like Kenny Zimmerman. He climbed Baldy to ski in the winter.

"We did all the normal things kids do," said Zimmerman. "He was a very pleasant person, much like his sister."

Jimmy, 6-0 and 175 pounds, played football and basketball at Hailey High School. An excellent student, he graduated from high school a year early, as a junior in 1945, and went off to join his older sister at the University of Colorado.

"My mom felt a lot more comfortable knowing we were both at Colorado," said Mary Jane.

Having competed for the Buffaloes and become one of their best female ski racers, Mary Jane was somewhat surprised at her brother's rapid progress as a skier. "I was four years older, and just wasn't aware he

was taking it up seriously," she said.

Colorado news articles bragged that Mary Jane and Jimmy were two of the best skiers the university had ever produced. And Jimmy was declared to be one of the best athletes to ever attend the Boulder school, rising to become captain and co-coach of the ski team by his graduation.

He might have been proudest of the fact that he officially joined the Sun Valley Ski Patrol in 1947.

National downhill king

Almost always the high-point man for Colorado during the three years he competed for coach Steve Bradley at Boulder, Jimmy Griffith had a rapid climb on the international stage.

In 1948 he placed seventh in the national amateur combined ranks. The next year, 1949, he was third in the national Open downhill, third in the national slalom and third in the Harriman Cup DH down the Olympic course behind the great Toni Matt.

One year later he beat Matt.

Always one to learn by observing and then doing, Griffith attributed his improvement as a racer to the techniques he picked up while watching the great "French flier" Emile Allais performing at Sun Valley in 1949.

It led to his greatest year, 1950—a year when Jimmy overcame a couple of hard-luck disappoint-

ments and pulled off his greatest victories.

Not only did Griffith make the FIS World Championship team that competed in Aspen, Colo., he won the national downhill championship in Sun Valley and traveled to South America with New England's Brooks Dodge in the summer of 1950.

He was the first University of Colorado student to ski for America in world competition. But the FIS race at Aspen wasn't a happy one. Griffith, headed for a bronze medal, spilled 50 feet above the finish line and clawed and crawled to 18th place.

*"We raced for the
enjoyment of racing,
and for fun.
It doesn't seem like
it's that way anymore."*

Brooks Dodge
Jimmy Griffith's Olympic teammate

The fact that Jimmy was that close to a bronze medal was significant.

Brooks Dodge from Pinkham Notch, N.H., an international team racer in 1950, 1952, 1954 and 1956, said, "In those days it wasn't the medals we were after, not like today.

"The Austrians, Swiss and French were so dominant. And there were over 100 racers in these big races. What we were shooting for was to place in the top 10. That was our goal, and there was an awful lot of pressure to place in the top 10."

In the 1950 Harriman Cup Jimmy missed his line at the top of Exhibition. But he never let disappointment upset him. Griffith rose to the occasion on March 25, 1950 when the national downhill was held on Baldy.

From Baldy's summit, the course screamed down Ridge through Rock Garden and around the big turn into Canyon. They said Griffith won the race with the time he picked up on the Roundhouse corner into Canyon. The racers cut off from Canyon into the lower part of Exhibition to the finish.

Griffith's time was two minutes and 15 seconds, best

of 66 men, a fifth-of-a-second faster than Open combined champ Ernie McCullough of the Sun Valley Ski Club and several places ahead of Matt and 1950 amateur combined king Jack Reddish.

"I was happy I grew up in those days," said Dodge. "None of the courses were prepared like they are today. We had to boot-pack the slalom courses and prepare the downhills. We raced for the enjoyment of racing, and for fun. It doesn't seem like it's that way anymore."

There is nothin' like a dame

Jimmy's successes led to a great trip to South America with Dodge, also a member of the 1950 FIS team.

"Jimmy and I were chosen, one from the West and one from the East, to go down to the Argentine National Championships and the Chilean National Championships," said two-time Olympian Dodge, 72, who now lives with his wife Ann in Jackson, N.H.

Dodge and Griffith both came from small, mountain town backgrounds. They got along very well.

Dodge lived in Pinkham Notch, 11 miles from the nearest town. His father, the famous Joseph Brooks



The 1952 U.S. Olympic men's ski team poses outside Sun Valley Lodge. Front, from left, Dick Buek of Soda Springs, Ca.; Bill Beck of Kingston, R.I. (5th in downhill at Oslo); Jack Reddish of Salt Lake City; Brooks Dodge of Hanover, N.H. (6th GS and 8th SL at Oslo); and Jimmy Griffith of Ketchum. Back, from left, Alan Fischer of Portland, Ore.; Jim Murphy of Salt Lake City; Verne Goodwin of Pittsfield, Mass.; Jack Nagel of Skykomish, Wash.; and Darrell Robison of Salt Lake City. Not shown are George Macomber of Massachusetts and Dave Lawrence of New Hampshire. The Oslo Games were most notable for Andrea Mead's golds in SL and GS. Buek, known as "The Mad Dog of Donner Summit," also died young, in a 1957 plane crash at the age of 27. His parents managed the Soda Springs ski area where there is a run, "Mad Dog," named after Dick. Photo, courtesy of Mary Jane Conger.

Dodge, was well known in New England for being the hut manager of the Appalachian Mountain Trail.

"Jimmy and I had the same values and same interests in life. We were both very serious about what we were doing. And I'd have to say we were both young and naïve," Dodge said.

They were very successful in South America, winning nearly everything they entered. If the Argentines and Chileans thought they were being smart inviting two fresh-faced Americans to their "Kandahar of the Andes" races, instead of the powerful Europeans, they were sadly mistaken.

"We did pretty well," said Dodge, who had first met Griffith in 1949 in western qualifying when both were trying out for the 1950 FIS team.

Griffith returned from the summer trip with the title "Combined Ski Champion of South America."

"We won 18 of the 20 races we were in. Jimmy won all the downhills and I won most of the giant slaloms and slaloms. He was by far and away the better downhiller.

"You know, in Argentina it seemed like all the pretty señoritas would try to get us to drink and have a good time. But we decided to be patriotic Americans and do our job and make the best out of it.

"By the afternoon of our last race in Chile, those señoritas wouldn't have anything to do with us—but we were so naïve we didn't understand until afterwards that maybe they were trying to get us to drink so we wouldn't do so well in the races."

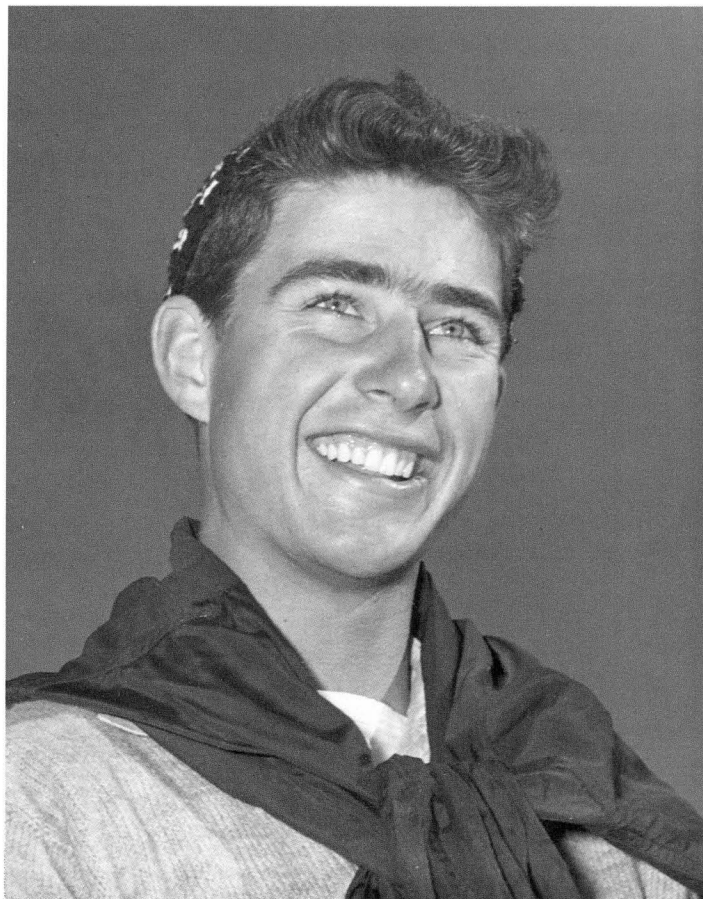
There was one reward that was pure music to the Americans' ears.

Dodge said, "An American lady won both Jimmy and I in a Calcutta pool after the last race. She asked us, what would you be interested in doing? We said, any chance you could get us tickets for "South Pacific"?

"That Broadway show, with Mary Martin and Enzo Pinza, was the most popular of the time. She gave us the name of a person to see in the ticket office

and when we flew to New York we went down to the theater."

"We thought our seats would be way up in the balcony. Imagine our surprise when the usher marched us down the aisle to the orchestra, right in the middle. It was just great."



The Colorado graduate

Social chairman for his Phi Gamma Delta fraternity in 1949 and the "King of the Campus," in one of the winter carnivals, Jimmy graduated pre-med from the University of Colorado in March 1951.

He entered the U.S. Air Force in April at Boise and was stationed at Perrin Air Force Base in Texas, assigned to the medical group.

By the fall, he jumped through all the hoops necessary to secure a leave from the service. On Nov. 12, 1951, Griffith was named by the U.S. Olympic

Committee to the U.S. Men's Downhill and Slalom team—Ketchum's first Olympian.

Only three weeks later he was gone.

Making the unbearable tragedy somewhat easier for Jimmy's mother was the fact that Mary Jane was living at home, while her first husband Dave Marin was serving in Korea.

And Mary Jane had delivered her first child, James David Marin, in April 1951, nine months before Jimmy's death.

"I ended up staying all winter and skiing," said Mary Jane. "And my mom had a grandchild."

Mary Jane Conger suspects that, had he lived, Jimmy would have finished his military obligation and found a way to return to Sun Valley and eventually go into medical practice with his mentor, Dr. John Moritz.

The 1952 trip to Oslo might have been his first and last Olympics. It's anybody's guess whether he would have cracked the top three Olympic downhillers at Oslo—Italy's Zeno Colo, Austria's Othmar Schneider and Austria's Christian Pravda.

"Jimmy had wanted to be a doctor from the time he was five years old. My mother was very interested in medicine, and he was very close to my mother," said Conger. "Dr. Moritz encouraged him. He wanted to come back and work with Dr. Moritz."

"Both Jimmy and my mother were very private people. He was very quiet. An Eagle Scout. And a straight-A student. But Jimmy worked very hard at his skiing and really liked it."

She added, "It's funny, Jimmy's good friend was Dick Buek, who was anything but quiet and sedate. They were very different, but they were very playful together."

Ironically, 1952 Olympian Buek of Soda Springs, Ca., known as "The Mad Dog of Donner Summit," also died young, in a 1957 plane crash at the age of 27. He was well known for tucking Baldy and flying his airplane upside down underneath the chair lift to celebrate his achievement.

That wasn't Jimmy Griffith's style. He was all about character, not show. Said his friend Brooks Dodge, "We considered ourselves lucky to be doing what we were doing."



Honors Page



- Jimmy Griffith's fraternity brother and close friend, Tommy Thompson, named his first son Griff, who grew up to become a physician.
- In 1971, he received the honored tribute of being inducted into the National Ski Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, Michigan.
- The Ketchum/Sun Valley Ski and Heritage Museum is home to a permanent James Griffith exhibit beginning in 2003.
- Ketchum, Idaho has recognized him in the Town Square with other local Olympians.
- Sun Valley Resort Idaho has included his photo in the Lodge Archival Gallery Walkway.
- His photo hangs in the Park City Ski Museum, Utah.
- In 2013 he was elected into the Sun Valley Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame
- The Ketchum Community Library and the Museum hosts the Griffith collection of reference material. Included are digitized Jimmy Griffith ski racing photos for use in multimedia presentations.

Ninth Annual Harriman Cup Races

Open Competition for Men and Women
Downhill, Slalom and Combined
March 26th and 27th, 1949
Sun Valley, Idaho.

Sponsored by the Sun Valley Ski Club



NINTH ANNUAL OPEN COMPETITION FOR THE HARRIMAN CUP

Sun Valley, Idaho - March 26, 1949

Baldy Mountain

RESULTS OF MEN'S DOWNHILL

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Time</u>
1.	Henri Oreiller	French Team	2:54:0
2.	Toni Matt	Whitefish Lake Ski Club	2:55:3
3.T	Georges Panisset	French Team	2:55:4
3.T	Jim Griffith	Sun Valley Ski Club	2:55:4
5.	Ernie McCulloch	St. Jovite Ski Club	2:57:1
6.	Jean Pazzi	French Team	2:57:2
7.	Guy de Huertas	French Team	2:59:3
8.	Dean Perkins	Sun Valley Ski Club	3:07:4
9.	Yves Latreille	Sun Valley Ski Club	3:08:1
10.	Dave Christensen	Brighton Ski Club	3:09:0
11.	David Lawrence	Dartmouth Outing Club	3:09:2
12.	Barney McLean	Zipfelberger Ski Club	3:10:4
13.	George Macomber	Ski Club of Hochgebirge	3:11:1
14.	Dick Buek	Donner Ski Club	3:11:2
15.T	Leon Goodman	Sun Valley Ski Club	3:12:3
15.T	Gale Spence	Aspen Ski Club	3:12:3
17.	Harvey Clifford	Banff Ski Runners	3:16:3
18.	Yvan Tache	Sun Valley Ski Club	3:18:2
19.	Dave Faires	Penguin Ski Club	3:18:3
20.	Pierre Jalbert	Ottawa Ski Club	3:19:0
21.	Steve Knowlton	Aspen Ski Club	3:21:4
22.	Wally Young	Reno Ski Club	3:31:3
23.	Jack Reddish	Brighton Ski Club	3:35:4
24.	Jerry Hiatt	Sugar Bowl Ski Club	3:39:2
25.	Don Goodman	Sun Valley Ski Club	3:40:3
26.	Bruce Fleming	McGill Outing Club	3:41:4
27.	Amos Little, Jr.	Belmont Ski Club	3:46:4
28.	Pete Seibert	Aspen Ski Club	3:48:2
29.	Bill Saunders	Otsego Ski Club	3:50:1
30.	Mel Dalebout	Brighton Ski Club	3:52:3
31.	Darrell Robison	Brighton Ski Club	3:59:3
32.	Lew Witcher	Sun Valley Ski Club	4:04:3
33.	Roger Tunnicliff	West Yellowstone Ski Club	4:08:0
34.	Jim Klein	M.I.T. Outing Club	4:10:0
35.	Mac Fraser	Jackson Hole Ski Club	4:15:3
36.	Richard Vorhees	Belmont Ski Club	4:24:3
	Karl Stingl	Penguin Ski Club	D.N.F.
	Gene Gillis	Whitefish Lake Ski Club	D.N.F.
	Donald Waldorf	Ptarmigan Ski Club	D.N.F.

NINTH ANNUAL OPEN COMPETITION FOR THE HARRIMAN CUP
Sun Valley, Idaho - March 27, 1949

RESULTS OF MEN'S COMBINED

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Points</u>
1.	Henri Oreiller	French Team	343
2.	Georges Panisset	French Team	345
3.	Toni Matt	Whitefish Lake Ski Club	348
4.	Guy de Huertas	French Team	354
5.	Jim Griffith	Sun Valley Ski Club	365*
6.	Barney McLean	Zipfelberger Ski Club	365
7.	Jean Pazzi	French Team	368
8.	Gale Spence	Aspen Ski Club	372
9.	George Macomber	S. C. of Hochgebirge	376*
10.	Dave Faires	Penguin Ski Club	376
11.	Pierre Jalbert	Ottawa Ski Club	376
12.	Harvey Clifford	Banff Ski Runners	379
13.	Steve Knowlton	Aspen Ski Club	381
14.	Leon Goodman	Sun Valley Ski Club	383
15.	Dick Buek	Donner Ski Club	385
16.	Jack Reddish	Brighton Ski Club	388
17.	Dave Christensen	Brighton Ski Club	391
18.	David Lawrence	Dartmouth Outing Club	397
19.	Dean Perkins	Sun Valley Ski Club	400
20.	Jerry Hiatt	Sugar Bowl Ski Club	402
21.	Wally Young	Reno Ski Club	417
22.	Pete Seibert	Aspen Ski Club	421
23.	Bruce Fleming	McGill Outing Club	437
24.	Amos Little, Jr.	Belmont Ski Club	447
25.	Lew Witcher	Sun Valley Ski Club	455
26.	Bill Saunders	Otsego Ski Club	480*
27.	Mel Dalebout	Brighton Ski Club	480
28.	Mac Fraser	Jackson Hole Ski Club	486
29.	Darrell Robison	Brighton Ski Club	489
30.	Roger Tunnicliff	W. Yellowstone Ski Club	499
31.	Don Goodman	Sun Valley Ski Club	503
32.	Richard Vorhees	Belmont Ski Club	506
33.	Jim Klein	M.I.T. Outing Club	525
	Ernie McCulloch	St. Jovite Ski Club	DISQ.
	Yves Latreille	Sun Valley Ski Club	DNF

* - The order of contestants who tie for a combined event shall be decided by their positions in the Downhill Race.

NINTH ANNUAL OPEN COMPETITION FOR THE HARRIMAN CUP
Sun Valley, Idaho - March 26, 1949
Baldy Mountain

RESULTS OF WOMEN'S DOWNHILL

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Time</u>
1.	Lucienne Couttet-Schmitt	French Team	2:27:3
2.	Paula Kann	Eastern Slope Ski Club	2:29:3
3.	Jannette Burr	Sun Valley Ski Club	2:35:0
4.	Andrea Mead	Pico Peak Ski Club	2:37:4
5.	Katy Rodolph	Sun Valley Ski Club	2:40:3
6.	Suzy Harris	Salt Lake Ski Club	2:41:1
7.	Ann Dodge	Eastern Slope Ski Club	2:59:3
8.	Pat de Surmont	Sun Valley Ski Club	3:06:1
9.	Sally Neidlinger	Arapahoe Ski Club	3:09:1
10.	Michael-Anne Healy	Salt Lake Ski Club	3:10:2
11.	Edith Lyman	Sun Valley Ski Club	3:11:0
12.	Merrill Hill	Sugar Bowl Ski Club	3:13:3
13.	Renee Knowlton	Aspen Ski Club	3:17:2
14.	Jo Schwalbe	Sun Valley Ski Club	3:17:4
15.	Dorothy Lunken	Aspen Ski Club	3:19:1
16.	Kay Fleetwood	Sun Valley Ski Club	3:40:4
17.	Naomi Sandvig	Bear Canyon Ski Club	3:42:4
18.	Amy Toda	Brighton Ski Club	3:49:4
19.	Alice Bennett	Belmont Ski Club	4:04:2
20.	Pam Trenor	Eastern Slope Ski Club	4:54:4
21.	Rhona Gillis	Whitefish Lake Ski Club	5:39:1
22.	Rhoda Eaves	Penguin Ski Club	8:19:1
	Mary Peel Berg	Washington State College	D.N.F.
	Shirley Brown	Sugar Bowl Ski Club	D.N.F.
	Lois Post	Sun Valley Ski Club	D.N.F.

NINTH ANNUAL OPEN COMPETITION FOR THE HARRIMAN CUP

Sun Valley, Idaho - March 27, 1949

Dollar Mountain

RESULTS OF WOMEN'S SLALOM

Place	Name	Club	TIME		Total
			1st Run	2nd Run	
1.	Lucienne Couttet-Schmitt	French Team	52.0	50.6	102.6
2.	Katy Rodolph	Sun Valley Ski Club	52.6	52.4	105.0
3.	Paula Kann	Eastern Slope Ski Club	54.8	57.6	112.4
4.	Andrea Mead	Pico Peak Ski Club	56.8	57.6	114.4
5.	Suzy Harris	Salt Lake Ski Club	57.4	57.8	115.2
6.	Rhoda Eaves	Penguin Ski Club	61.8	55.8	117.6
7.	Pat de Surmont	Sun Valley Ski Club	59.6	59.0	118.6
8.T	Ann Dodge	Eastern Slope Ski Club	63.6	59.6	123.2
8.T	Repee Knowlton	Aspen Ski Club	61.0	62.2	123.2
10.	Jo Schwalbe	Sun Valley Ski Club	64.8	69.2	134.0
11.	Naomi Sandvig	Bear Canyon Ski Club	75.8	63.2	139.0
12.	Sally Neidlinger	Arapahoe Ski Club	72.0	69.0	141.0
13.	Jannette Burr	Sun Valley Ski Club	63.4	P-79.0	142.4
14.	Edith Lyman	Sun Valley Ski Club	P-81.2	63.0	144.2
15.	Kay Fleetwood	Sun Valley Ski Club	64.8	84.0	148.8
16.	Alice Bennett	Belmont Ski Club	74.0	76.2	150.2
17.	Merrill Hill	Sugar Bowl Ski Club	74.4	P-80.2	154.6
18.	Michael-Anne Healy	Salt Lake Ski Club	98.2	63.0	161.2
19.	Dorothy Lunken	Aspen Ski Club	82.4	P-94.4	176.8
20.	Amy Toda	Brighton Ski Club	P-111.4	68.6	180.0
21.	Pam Trenor	Eastern Slope Ski Club	P-177.4	101.6	279.0

P- Penalty

NINTH ANNUAL OPEN COMPETITION FOR THE HARRIMAN CUP
Sun Valley, Idaho - March 27, 1949
Dollar Mountain

RESULTS OF WOMEN'S COMBINED

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Points</u>
1.	Lucienne Couttet-Schmitt	French Team	291
2.	Paula Kann	Eastern Slope Ski Club	307
3.	Katy Rodolph	Sun Valley Ski Club	308
4.	Andrea Mead	Pico Peak Ski Club	318
5.	Suzy Harris	Salt Lake Ski Club	323
6.	Ann Dodge	Eastern Slope Ski Club	352*
7.	Pat de Surmont	Sun Valley Ski Club	352
8.	Jannette Burr	Sun Valley Ski Club	354
9.	Renee Knowlton	Aspen Ski Club	370
10.	Jo Schwalbe	Sun Valley Ski Club	385
11.	Sally Neidlinger	Arapahoe Ski Club	387
12.	Edith Lyman	Sun Valley Ski Club	393
13.	Merrill Hill	Sugar Bowl Ski Club	410
14.	Michael-Anne Healy	Salt Lake Ski Club	416
15.	Naomi Sandvig	Bear Canyon Ski Club	417
16.	Kay Fleetwood	Sun Valley Ski Club	429
17.	Dorothy Lunken	Aspen Ski Club	447
18.	Alice Bennett	Belmont Ski Club	455
19.	Amy Toda	Brighton Ski Club	482
20.	Rhoda Eaves	Penguin Ski Club	664
21.	Pam Trenor	Eastern Slope Ski Club	685

* - The order of contestants who tie for a combined event shall be decided by their positions in the Downhill Race.

Sun Valley Skiers Named To FIS Downhill-Slalom Squads

Six Club Members Accorded High Honor

With the announcement of the 12 men and eight women skiers named to the United States FIS Downhill and Slalom squads, the Sun Valley Ski Club proudly points to the six racers who will be flying our colors next winter.

Skiing for the Valley on the all-star men's squad will be Jimmy Griffith, Dean Perkins and Leon Goodman. In the ladies' division, our hopes will be riding with Katy Rodolph, Jannette Burr and Brynhild Grasmoen. From the original squads, selection will later be made to determine the actual personnel who will represent this country in the World's Championships at Aspen, February 13-18.

The FIS program at Aspen embraces three events: Downhill, Slalom and Giant Slalom — each to be run off on a different day. Since no combined results are involved, every competing nation will naturally endeavor to place its strongest specialists in each individual race. It is reasonable to assume that most of the SVSC skiers will survive this weeding out process, and it is even possible that all will compete in one or more events.

On the basis of last winter's performances, the Club's foremost male contender will be 20-year old Jimmy Griffith from Ketchum. Potentially one of the greatest racers ever to be developed in this country, Jimmy had a big winter last season and performed brilliantly against top-notch competition. He was particularly strong in downhill and it is quite probable that he will be trained exclusively for this specialty.

Jimmy's 1949 downhill record reveals third places in both the National Championships and the Roch Cup. But it was in the Harriman Cup that he really showed his mettle. Against some of the toughest competition in the world, including four mem-

bers of the crack French team, Jimmy hurled himself down Sun Valley's exacting two-mile Olympic Course in 2:55.8, less than two seconds behind the fabulous Henri Oreiller and only two-tenths of a second behind the great Toni Matt. To compete against such a formidable field and be beaten by only Oreiller and Matt is truly a remarkable achievement for a 20-year old lad.

Another youngster with a bright future in racing is Dean Perkins, 21-year old speedster from Ogden. A member of Nelson Bennett's Sun Valley Ski Patrol, he moved up fast last winter and should be even more brilliant next season. Along with Griffith, most observers rate "Perk" as one of the very finest downhill prospects America has seen in a number of years.

Dean placed eighth in the National Downhill and fourth in the Roch Cup. Incidentally, he won the first heat of this latter event and placed well up in the other two runs. He encountered some bad luck in the North American but came back in good style to record a neat eighth place in the Harriman Downhill. Later on, he captured a beautifully executed fifth in the National Giant Slalom at Reno and a smooth third in the Silver Belt at Sugar Bowl, California. Here is a strong, cool racer of whom the Club may well be proud.

Our third ambassador among the men, Leon Goodman, is an old-time campaigner who has been racing in top competition for almost ten years. During this period he has established a truly remarkable record which includes high ranking laurels in practically every major tournament held on the North American continent. A native Idahoan, he now makes his home at Sun Valley where, for the past two seasons, he has been a valued member of our Ski School staff under Otto Lang.

After winning the Sun Valley Ski Club Open Championship

last February, Leon seemed to hit a streak of bad racing luck and could never fully regain his stride. However, he was generally well up in the field and everyone is looking for Leon's wealth of ability and experience to bring him back again. With any luck at all this superb runner should recover his pace next winter. If such be the case, he will be a very tough man to beat out for a position on the team.

Among the Club's distaff, Katy Rodolph of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, displayed the best form last season. She notched a sixth in the National Downhill and a fourth in the Slalom. Two fine runs gave her a second place in the Roch Cup, followed by a ninth in the North American Combined.

Katy performed brilliantly in the Harriman and her fifth in the Downhill was coupled with a blazing second in the Slalom. In this latter event, she was topped only by the formidable Mme. Couttet-Schmitt of France. The Steamboat Springs girl really put on the pressure in the National Giant Slalom and she left Reno with an American Championship in her pocket. Most observers consider Katy a definite candidate for all three events and point out that the other girls will have to hustle if they hope to displace her.

Close behind Katy is Jannette Burr of Seattle, an exceptionally strong skier with a definite penchant for running downhill. In her specialty, Jannette was 11th in the Nationals, fourth in the Roch Cup, fifth in the North American and third in the Harriman. An excellent team competitor, this lass is expected to make a splendid account of herself in '50.

The third Sun Valley skier among the girls is Brynhild Grasmoen of Merced, California. A veteran competitor, she was incapacitated during most of last winter with a bad knee injury. She competed only in the Western Interstate Giant Slalom in which she placed seventh despite a time-consuming spill. However, her record over the years has been such as to earn her a spot on the squad. Should her knee behave satisfactorily this winter, she should have little difficulty making the team since she is an all-round performer of exceptional ability.

U.S. Women's 1952 Alpine Olympic Team



U.S. Men's 1952 Alpine Olympic Team



Drawings made from Sun Valley and John Lohman (Jack Nagel) photos through courtesy of Harvey Diederich, Sun Valley; and Miss Pat Riley, Squaw Valley.

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17 Feb 2023